Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Foreign Ministry on New START Treaty Talks

OW0503174392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leaders of Russia and the United States may sign a new major treaty cutting down strategic offensive weapons. "So far there is no telling whether the document will be called START-2 or not, but both sides are working hard to reach a substantive agreement", a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official dealing directly with Russian-U.S. relations told IF [INTERFAX].

Reaching a compromise solution, he stressed, will depend on whether the two sides succeed in solving specific problems related to cutting Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles and U.S. submarine-based ballistic missiles.

The Foreign Ministry official said that these and other issues would be discussed by Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker during their meeting in Brussels on March 11. The meeting is supposed to lay ground for Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States scheduled for mid-June when the new START treaty is expected to be signed.

Minister: No Nuclear Scientists Working Abroad

LD0503181192 Moscow TASS in English 0923 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 5 ITAR-TASS—"Not a single Russian specialist working in nuclear armament field has gone abroad", the newly appointed Russian Minister for Atomic Energy, Professor Viktor Mikhaylov, said in an interview with the PRAVDA newspaper published today.

Touching on the conversion programmes worked out by nuclear specialists, Viktor Mikhaylov said: "We have immense opportunities in a very wide range of different spheres, such as the lasers, controlled explosions, new materials, use of super-powerful magnetic fields, etc."

According to Viktor Mikhaylov, the Russian Nuclear Centre, which is yet to be created, will carry out concrete research work. Among the first and the most important tasks of the centre will be non-proliferation of nuclear weapon technology, safety of nuclear materials and destruction of nuclear weapons.

Illegal Uranium Export Deals Investigated

PM0503161792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 92 Morning Edition pp 1, 3

[Yuriy Kovalenko report, citing interview with Herve Bryuzini [name as transliterated], French TV journalist; date not given: "Military Men, Brokers, and the Mafia Have Been Vying with One Another To Offer Everything—Including Nuclear Material"]

[Text] Paris—Journalists from Paris used a hidden camera to film a deal taking place in a Moscow apartment. The film will be seen throughout France on 11 March.

Are nuclear scientists leaving the CIS? Is the world menaced by the "escape" from Commonwealth countries of uranium essential for the production of nuclear weapons? Can it be obtained today in Russia and other republics of the former Soviet Union? Who is dealing in it? Military men, brokers, the mafia? Are the political authorities turning a blind eye to these deals, which promise millions in profit? What are they doing to prevent the clandestine export of fissile material? Answers to these questions have been sought by two well-know French television journalists who carried out an investigation in our country in the middle of January.

"Our film is in two parts," Herve Bryuzini, one of its makers, told me. "We made the first part with the Vzglyad program, which obtained permission to visit the previously closed city of Arzamas-16.

"Then—I would stress—we independently, without Vzglyad's help," Bryuzini went on, "looked into the problem of the 'escape' of military material. We had a conversation with Mikhaylov, deputy minister for nuclear power, who stated: 'I am working on these questions and I can assure you that there has not been, nor ever will be any 'leak' of material.' Of course, this is the official viewpoint, which we understand.

"We also met with three military men—I do not know their names—who are engaged in selling stocks of weapons. We filmed the conversation with the miliary men without their knowledge. They offered to purchase aircraft, helicopters, submarines, and tanks for us. We enquired whether they might not be able to obtain nuclear material for us. They answered that they were ready to obtain scandium and germanium. Here the military men acknowledged that it is difficult to obtain an export license for these materials.

"One day colleagues of ours informed us that you could obtain whatever you wanted on the commodity exchange in Moscow. We filmed there during three days and met with many brokers. We got to know a broker who said that he was about to carry out a transaction outside the exchange—that it was illegal and connected with the sale of uranium. Shortly afterwards this man telephoned us and asked us to come over immediately. Several clients, he said, were meeting in a Moscow apartment. He gave us the address and proposed our meeting up there.

"We got there in advance and set up a hidden video camera. Our broker acquaintance agreed to wear a hidden microphone. We installed ourselves in the apartment below and listened to the whole conversation. For 1 hour 45 minutes our broker and three other people discussed the question of transporting what they called the 'commodity' in a sealed container weighing one tonne, which would cross all the borders as far as Kaliningrad.

"We subsequently learned that one of the people is a lawyer who represents a Russian-Austrian joint venture. Another person accompanying him was from the mafia. They said that they could buy off the customs officials without any special problems. They agreed on the money and delivery. One of them at some point in the conversation said: 'Don't worry, I don't intend to put a black triangle—the nuclear symbol—on the container.' Another said that fortunately everyone could be bought, so if the container is detected at the border, nothing dreadful will happen.

"We were unable, of course, to get to see what was in the container and do not know where it is. We did not enter into contact with these people. But there is evidence of the existence of a clandestine network involved in exporting nuclear material. Our broker acquaintance claimed that the discussion was about uranium and a deal worth $500,000. And uranium was indeed mentioned during the conversation. But as we are sticklers for complete accuracy and authenticity, we cannot guarantee 100-percent that we filmed a deal involving the sale of uranium, but it is quite probable that it was indeed the case.

"We have showed the film to specialists in both Russia and France. In their opinion, it could indeed be uranium. At the same time the various kinds of swindles which go on in your country have to be borne in mind.

"Therefore we approach the information we have obtained with circumspection and advise you to do the same. You have to realize that the broker who allowed us to shoot the film was risking his life. And my colleague, Dominique Tyers, and I intend to respect the agreement we made with him. The broker is engaged in something illegal, but that is his business. We do not intend to endanger his life or the lives of those who helped us make the film.

"We returned from Moscow very concerned, but we have no intention at all of creating a big sensational story. We have no intention of denigrating your country or causing it harm. Some people have seen the film in your country and they have not regarded it as defamatory or provocative. (There is a copy of it in Russia). On the contrary, this kind of thing could happen, in their opinion. We are trying to discover the true state of affairs. Our film stands as a warning to everyone, as a warning to world public opinion, about the possible dangers. Responsibility rests not just with politicians, but with journalists too. It is collective.

"We wish to treat the information obtained with the highest degree of seriousness. In our view, there do exist for the export of dangerous materials clandestine structures, structures ready to invest big money, but we do not know what kind of material or what quantity is involved. At the same time these structures are still being combated by the state, which continues to function, whatever some people may say there. Therefore it seems to me that the export of strategic materials remains a very difficult business. There is not a single piece of material evidence anywhere in the world of the discovery of enriched uranium-235 exported from Russia; save for the quantity of plutonium—clearly from Russia—found in the Italian city of Como. But at present Western special services do fear its export from your country.

"The task of journalists," stressed Herve Bryuzini, who two months ago left the state television station Antenne-2 and together with Dominique Tyers created the agency Theophraste, "is not to draw particular conclusions. They should state: These are the facts which we have... We know the names of these people. But we are not criminal investigators. Ultimately the question of names is not so important—let the police and special services deal with that. The journalists' role is to show the information and demand that politicians and specialists of all countries assess it. The crux is whether this strategic material could leave Russia. The security of the whole world is at stake."

"The 2 March issue of LIBERATION claimed that President Nazarbayev has authorized the export of uranium. What do you think about this?"

"I think that he could thereby endanger the whole world. But this problem concerns not just our country. France—at the government level—also sold fissile material in the past (particularly to Iraq—Yu.K.). Everyone bears his share of responsibility here."

...The film shot in Russia by Bryuzini and Tyers will be shown on France's Fr 3 channel on 11 March as part of the popular weekly program "La Marche du Siecle." The film will not be dubbed; for greater accuracy, it will be shown with subtitles. The faces of all paricipants in the deal will be hidden.

Army General Konstantin Kobets, Russian Federation state counsellor on defense; Mikhail Bazhanov, chairman of the State Committee for Conversion; French Defense Minister Pierre Joxe; the Italian investigator in charge of the case involving the plutonium dicovered in Como; plus various experts have been invited to Fr 3's television studio. Pentagon boss Dick Cheney has also given his agreement in principle. The program makers have asked Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov to take part, but have not received a response to date. Work on the broadcast will continue right until it goes on the air.

Belarussian Supreme Soviet Chairman Interviewed

LD2802234292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1706 GMT 28 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov]

[Text] Helsinki, 28 Feb (TASS)—Dividing the legacy of the Soviet Army is not easy, but it is possible, Belarussian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich believes. In an interview with the Finnish newspaper HELSINGIN SANOMAT, he stated that discussion of

military problems will be continued at a meeting of the CIS states in Kiev on 20 March.

A group of documents is being prepared for this meeting with complete seriousness, and I view this with optimism, Stanislav Shushkevich noted. Belarus planned to withdraw all strategic nuclear weapons from its territory over a period of two to three years, however it has now become clear that this operation is very complicated and will possibly take longer. The economic difficulties being experienced now by all CIS states are slowing down the implementation of disarmament plans, he continued. In this regard I would like to thank the servicemen of the strategic forces who are attempting with dignity to keep our nuclear defense in a state of readiness, Stanislav Shushkevich stated.

Belarus is the most militarized of the former USSR republics, at least in the number of troops stationed there. We have one serviceman for every 43 citizens, which is much greater than in any other CIS state, Shushkevich noted. For this reason it is particularly difficult for us to transfer to a civilian society, he added. It is also necessary to take into account that further military units are expected to arrive since they are being withdrawn from Central Europe. The number of officers living here is also constantly increasing since no one wants to leave, and the number of people arriving is constantly increasing. However, we will not refuse a single serviceman, the Belarussian Supreme Soviet chairman stressed.

Foundation Plans Forum on Warhead Elimination

OW0503162492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Next summer, the Foundation for Safe Development of Civilization is planning to hold in Moscow an international action "First Public Elimination of Nuclear Warhead", the Foundation's chairman and the Soviet Union's ex-foreign minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh told IF [INTERFAX] in confirmation of earlier reports. The Organizing Committee, chaired by the world's first woman-cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova, is writing the action's scenario.

Menatep, Aeroflot and the Moscow Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange have volunteered to sponsor the event. The money earned will be used to improve the living standards of servicemen and workers of nuclear power-engineering industry, and to eliminate the consequences of nuclear accidents.

The action has been backed by the Russian parliament's Committee for Environmental Protection and Rational Utilization of Natural Resources, by the Russian Academy of Sciences and by the Russian Ministry for Nuclear Power-Engineering. It is also being coordinated with the command of the CIS armed forces.

Gorbachev Remarks on CIS Situation, Yeltsin

LD0503212892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1414 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Nikolay Kalintsev and Sergey Sosnovskiy]

[Text] Bonn, 5 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, who is on a lengthy private visit here, held a news conference in Bonn today on the results of his first political conversations with Chancellor Helmut Kohl; Wolfgang Schauble, Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union factions chairman; and Social Democratic Party Chairman Heinz-Ulrich Close.

Answering a question on the situation in the CIS, he pointed out that "our country was not formed as an empire. It was a large continent and a complicated world inhabited by many peoples.... We did not have internal borders, and people settled down freely and felt at home in any oblast. A total of 75,000,000 people live outside their national territories, millions have mixed marriages, and we all have blood of different peoples in us. This was a single world, a single economic and cultural area, and a single security sphere. All this will remain, despite great problems there." Now, Mikhail Gorbachev continued, on the basis of democratization and respect for the rights of nations and peoples, it is necessary to find a form of national-state structure which will consider these realities and allow republics to breathe.

The putsch, the former USSR president stressed, "ruined these processes" and aggravated disintegration. Certain steps on the Russian leadership's part were seen as conducting an imperial policy, and this accelerated disintegration. "I cannot characterize the Russian leadership's steps in this way. It was forced to act this way to be able to repulse reactionary forces by having taken all power and responsibility in the country."

Mikhail Gorbachev repeated that he still supports the union but currently sees his role in strengthening the CIS, which he feels "should live and work." "Things so far have not been going well. Institutions of interaction have not yet been created, and existing structures are not working.... The situation is very acute. However, time has not yet been lost. The main responsibility is with the republics themselves."

Mikhail Gorbachev continued, saying: "I told my German interlocutors that Europeans should help the Commonwealth into being. I will say bluntly but frankly: I do not think that visits by foreign ministers to all CIS countries—which remind of a gypsy encampment—help the Commonwealth come into being. The same applies to visits by the other side to all continents, especially in Europe.... Without the Commonwealth coming into being and its interaction with Europe and other powers, it will not work."

A selective policy might turn out to be a big disaster, Mikhail Gorbachev said. Russia needs support; it took the main burden of accelerating reforms and development in other republics; and the Commonwealth, on the whole, depends on Russia's state of affairs. Defeat for Yeltsin's policy will mean defeat for a policy toward democratic transformations. "I express critical remarks addressed to Yeltsin and his team but only so that they do not fail.... It would be a failure for everyone," the former USSR president stressed.

Memorandum Signed on Servicemen Retraining

LD0603093792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1835 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Semenov]

[Text] Bonn, 5 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the FRG Foreign Ministry reported today that a memorandum has been signed in Bonn on mutual understanding between the FRG Foreign Ministry and representatives of Kazakhstan, Belarus, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation. This document forms the basis for the implementation of a program directed at improving the qualifications of and retraining the servicemen of the Western Group of Troops (WGT) stationed on the territory of the former GDR.

Previously the FRG had reached accord with the former Soviet Union to the effect that Bonn would allocate 200 million German marks toward these purposes. The aim of the present memorandum is to distribute resources among the republics according to the number of their citizens serving as troops among the Western Group of Forces. Military servicemen leaving the FRG will in general be trained in careers which are needed for working in commerce, trades, and in the sphere of agriculture.

It is noted in the statement by the FRG Ministry of Foreign Affairs press service that the program to increase qualifications and retrain servicemen of the Western Group of Forces leaving Germany is one of the aspects of "long-term conceptual cooperation with the CIS states, with the objective of assisting in the introduction of a market economy".

Reports of Weapons Pilferage in Germany Refuted

PM0503140592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The command of our Group of Forces in Germany has refuted a statement by Barzhanov, chairman of the Russian President's Office Committee on Conversion, which claims that much has already been stolen from our storehouses in Germany and so far it has proved impossible to draw up an inventory of property in storage. The statement by the command says that the Western Group of Forces has not encountered the problem of misappropriation of weapons. The group keeps a strict record of weapons and ammunition, and each combined unit's stocks correspond to the documentation.

Commonwealth

Parliamentary Leaders To Meet in Alma-Ata

LD0503214792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1707 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Alma-Ata—The consultative council of representative of parliaments of the CIS member states is going to meet in Alma Ata late in March. A spokesman for the press center of the Kazakh Supreme Soviet told PF [POSTFACTUM] that the meeting planned to discuss a possible creation of an interparliamentary assembly, which would include ten representatives of parliaments from each of the CIS member states.

Group Prepares Agenda for Upcoming Summits

OW0503160692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Minsk, the working group of the Council of the CIS's heads of state and government began to work on the agenda of the forthcoming CIS summits. To quote Ivan Korotchenya the working group's coordinator, the Council will gather in Moscow on March 13 to discuss about 20 questions related, above all, to economy, pricing, customs and taxing policies, pensions and the former Union's foreign debt.

Speaking about the Council's meeting in Kiev on March 20 Ivan Korotchenya told IF [INTERFAX] that its agenda would be much broader. "It will include, in the first place, about a dozen army-related proposals on which the CIS leaders did not come to terms in Minsk. [quotation mark as received]

Besides that, the working group is receiving from the republics various proposals dealing with the guarding of borders, he said. These issues are also expected to be included in the March 20 agenda.

In Kiev, the CIS leaders will also discuss "some of the economic issues and a large package of protocol agreements", among them those on scientific and technical cooperation, on the establishment of economic contacts and on the coordination of policies related to standardization, metrology and certification.

Deputies' Congress Organizers Hold Briefing

PM0603105592 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 Mar 92 p 1

[Report by N. Garifullina: "With the People and the Fatherland"]

[Text] About 1,000 USSR people's deputies have already agreed to take part in the work of the sixth Extraordinary Congress. That was the unexpected information reported at the 3 March news conference of its organization committee by General A.M. Makashov. Actually, that was not the only surprise. First, this time it was more representative than on previous occasions. In addition to organizational committee members S. Umalatova, Yu. Golik, A. Krayko, A. Kryshkin, A. Makashov, and A. Chekhkoyev, journalists' questions were answered by USSR People's Deputy ex-premier N. Ryzhkov.

One more surprise, but this time for the Congress organizational committee itself, was the concert hall of the Journalists' Center, full to bursting, where the press conference was held. You recall that the press—both our own and the foreign press—did little to spare the previous congresses. Has the information blockade really finally been broken through? But if you judge by the briefer, ironic reports on television and a couple of mocking commentaries in the independent democratic publications, the reaction was obviously out of keeping with the interest displayed by journalists.

And so is the convening of the Congress legally justified? Deputy Yu. Golik cited four legal grounds from the entire spectrum. First, the USSR Constitution. No one has repealed it and, however some people may dislike the fact, it exists, albeit in truncated form. Second, the voters have not recalled the deputies and USSR people's deputies are simply obliged to work and fulfill the will of their electorate. The third element is that the process of the birth of any state, like the dying process, is historically complex and prolonged and no decree, especially a compact, can in principle be used to abolish a state. On 17 March last year in their referendum the people unambiguously confirmed their will—to live together! And it is up to politicians to determine forms, means, and methods of the peoples' joint existence. One more argument: Today the Congress is the only fully empowered organ representing the country's entire population. Politicians were too hasty to abolish and repeal all union organs. What about the union people?

Aims, tasks.

[A. Krayko] A high degree of integration of the entire national economy and the entire economic system, including defense, dictates the need for some federal structures. Without them we shall simply perish. The people will perish. Our country is like a plant with individual shops. The plant leadership has now been abolished and all ties between the shops have been destroyed. So industry is coming to a standstill and it is unclear whether there will be a spring sowing, whether the harvest will be brought in, and what will begin next winter. It is in the interests of all republics to create coordinating organs. Therefore the chance which still exists thanks to the existence of an organ like the Congress must be used. At least we shall try to create some center of crystallization which, as necessary, for the survival of us all, will assume power functions. If we collect a quorum we shall succeed in electing an acting president until nationwide elections are held or a constituent assembly is elected...

Gorbachev's Attitude Toward the Congress

S. Umalatova said that Gorbachev would probably not attend the congress but his resignation, which he announced in December, and his surrendering of his powers would be accepted by the Congress. Explaining her position, Sazhi noted: "The trouble was that we trusted our leader too much, we trusted him even when he betrayed his closest associates and brightest people. We trusted him and thought: He will suddenly come to his senses, after all it is his native land, his native people. But probably world history knows of no case of the head of a country betraying his own country and people."

On difficulties. The organizational committee has many of these: There are no premises, they need funds because all state funds have been illegally confiscated. A. Krayko also announced that according to information in the organizational committee's possession certain preventive repressive measures are being prepared with a view to hindering the work of the Congress. To counter the meeting planned for 17 March on Manezh Square it is planned to set up a tent bazaar there so that the people have nowhere to assemble and express their support for the deputies. And in addition there is information that an attempt will be made to break up the Congress by arresting its organizers on let us say a misunderstanding.

On support. It does exist and it is already quite powerful. The idea of convening the Congress is supported by all parties of a socialist and patriotic orientation, by the "Working Russia" movement, the "Civil Accord," and many Russian people's deputies.

The members of the organizational committee noted with satisfaction that the people's deputies are reporting locally that they are prepared to assemble even on the street as long as they can do everything to save the country.

And the deputies who have not come at such a hard time for the people, who have decided it is not worth risking their careers for the people, will be considered to have voluntarily surrendered their powers. Incidentally, there are already such people's deputies. "But if today we can prevent the imminent catastrophe," S. Umalatova stressed, "not a single person should stand aloof. The question is simple: Whether we are to exist or not. We can lose what is most sacred—the Motherland."

Only someone who is blind and deaf can fail to see this alarm and pain of the deputies and fail to hear them, as happened with many participants in the press conference. Actually, that is not surprising. In extolling the new post-August order they do not notice the increasing impoverishment of our dispossessed, humiliated, and insulted people who have had their Motherland and their future taken from them. Well, the old saying is true: Everyone sees what he wants to see.

Nikolay Ryzhkov Cited

MK0503144992 Moscow Teleradioveshchatelnaya Kompaniya Moskva Television in Russian 1545 GMT 3 Mar 92

[L. Klemm video report from the "Moskovskiy Teletayp" newscast]

[Text] While the Moscow Government was adopting decisions promoting a change for the better in our lives, a group of people whom we know very well—Mulatov, Krayko, Makashov, and Ryzhkov—could be found in the House of Journalists. They gathered here and invited journalists to a press conference in connection with their activities aimed at organizing a Congress of USSR People's Deputies. It was as if a time machine had carried them far, far away from our days.

The people on the stage invoked concepts that have faded into the past—the USSR, the USSR Constitution, union republics. They raised their issues literally a day after all the former republics had become sovereign members of the United Nations, although the organizers of the Congress described independence and sovereignty as shamanist incantations. It was probably Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov who expressed his ideas most accurately.

[Ryzhkov] Our task as people, as people's deputies, and as citizens of our country is to attempt nevertheless once again to see what we managed to do and what must be done. [Ryzhkov ends]

Indeed, they did manage to do a lot and now we must all get out of the mess.

Military

Shaposhnikov Dismisses Air Division Commander

LD0503191292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1836 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Nikolay Zayka]

[Text] Uzin (Kiev Oblast), 5 Mar (TASS)—Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces (JAF), dismissed Major General Mikhail Bashkirov, commander of the strategic air division. By an order of the commander in chief, Bashkirov was also struck off the lists of CIS JAF personnel, and his personal file has been transferred to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry.

By this same order, the deputy and assistant commander of the division were discharged to the reserves. No reasons were given in the order. However, it is known that the division's personnel were the first of the strategic units stationed in Ukraine to take an oath of allegiance to its people.

Fleet Commander Meets Kiev Military Delegation

LD0503215792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1722 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk]

[Text] Sevastopol, 5 Mar (TASS)—Admiral Igor Kasatonov, Black Sea Fleet commander, described the current visit of a group of Kiev military specialists to the Fleet's ships and units as the first civilized arrival of a Ukrainian Defense Ministry delegation. Although the admiral found the meetings and conversations useful, Kasatonov voiced regret over the fact that it had not proved possible to make any constructive moves on the Black Sea Fleet's subsequent fate.

A group of Ukrainian people's deputies from the permanent parliamentary commission on defense and state security is visiting the Fleet with the Ukrainian military delegation. The visitors from Kiev today held a joint news conference with the Fleet commander. Its participants were, perhaps, unanimous on the view that a political decision on the Black Sea Fleet cannot be delayed any further. It is time, at long last, to clarify this matter, which worries many people.

CIS Admiral Interviewed on Black Sea Fleet

PM0503151592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 92 pp 1-2

[Interview with Admiral Kasatonov by Captain Third Class V. Yermolin, place and date not specified: "Admiral I. Kasatonov: 'I Have Already Taken the Oath of Allegiance to Ukraine as Well as to the Other Republics of the Former Union'"—first three paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[Text] In recent months the name of Admiral I. Kasatonov has been the cause of fierce disputes and seething passions. For some he symbolizes military honor, for others he is a reactionary who refuses to recognize the realities of the new life. For both he is undoubtedly a strong individual with clear ideas on military duty, the law, and commander's rights.

Unfortunately, for many people in uniform, these ideas have recently become somewhat blurred and are being refashioned to fit the "idea of national self-awareness," "commercial" interests, or considerations of "high policy." Admiral I. Kasatonov comes from a military family, politics is not his scene. But by the whim of fate he has been drawn into a particularly political game. Perhaps it is the other way round—the point is how the commander of the Black Sea Fleet can avoid being drawn into such dubious "games"?

These and other themes were raised during the conversation between our correspondent, Captain Third Class V. Yermolin, and Admiral I. Kasatonov.

[Kasatonov] It all began when we, that is, the three commanders of the military districts and the fleet, were summoned to Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk, who announced that henceforth he was commander in chief of the republic of Ukraine's troops and that we, along with our personnel, weapons, and hardware, were being transferred to his command. This surprised me, to put it mildly. No one had spoken with me on this matter, no one has asked me whether I want to become a Ukrainian serviceman. The discussion switched immediately to the oath of allegiance to Ukraine. I said: I have already sown the oath of allegiance to Ukraine as well as to Russia, Belorussia [as published], Kazakhstan, and the other republics of the Union. I pointed out, incidentally, that there are 46 nationalities represented in the fleet. How is it planned to administer the oath of allegiance to the Ukraine to them? People will run away. On those days when the oath was being administered in the military districts on average around 50 people left their units. But whereas in the ground forces it is possible to reform subunits from which half the personnel have fled, on ships, where people are strictly interlinked and where everything is subject to the station bill [boyevoye raspisaniye], desertion would lead to the destruction of the fleet, to its demise.

[Yermolin] Like in 1918?

[Kasatonov] Yes. On that occasion the system resulted in destruction, too. The same thing is happening now, in my opinion. With the result that the Fleet of the former Union, a most mighty fleet of world significance, could be reduced to the scale of a flotilla. It only takes someone to make a start. With the Black Sea Fleet.

[Yermolin] But who could have an interest in doing that?

[Kasatonov] I do not know. In my opinion, some people in Ukraine regard the Black Sea Fleet as a commodity which can be sold for a profit or, for example, traded for oil. Unfortunately there is absolutely no trace of the professional approach here.

[Yermolin] Which men of authority in the navy are you dealing with on the Ukrainian side?

[Kasatonov] Well, recently, for example, I have gotten to know my opposite number, an officer by the name of Tenyukh. Apparently his last job was as commander of a minesweeper. Well, I have a certain experience of service in the fleet and I wanted to find out from my counterpart how he perceives the fragmentation of the unified system of the fleet (communications, technical support, the accident-rescue service, and so forth) and how far the option of transferring the Black Sea Fleet to Ukraine had been worked out from the purely military viewpoint. There is no professional dialogue in our country, especially not with those who have not even served a single day in the fleet. Even though in Ukraine nowadays the future of the fleet is being discussed by just about everyone: agronomists, journalists, housewives... Everyone is trying to prove to me that the Black Sea Fleet is not a strategic force and therefore under the Minsk agreement does not belong to the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

[Yermolin] I would like to ask you about the Minsk agreement. The footnote which envisages the right of each Commonwealth state to decide for itself which units on its territory are strategic and which are not could completely wreck the agreement itself.

[Kasatonov] Which is what we are now seeing in the Ukrainian example. A precedent has been set.

[Yermolin] They are accusing you of carrying out repression in the fleet against those who want to take the Ukrainian oath and the newspaper of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry claims that "Admiral Kasatonov is acting with the support of an insignificant number of top staff officers" and no one else while the remainder of the fleet personnel, apparently, is waiting impatiently for the opportunity take the oath of allegiance to Ukraine. What can you tell us about that, Igor Vladimirovich?

[Kasatonov] At present only a certain number of officers, warrant officers, and fixed-term servicemen have taken the Ukrainian oath.

[Yermolin] Is your order not to take the oath being obeyed?

[Kasatonov] I have given no such order. After talking with the president of the republic I returned to the fleet, convened the military council and then a meeting of the representatives of the fleet's forces (around 300 officers)—we were of the same opinion that a military man takes the oath just once, the fleet is a constituent of the CIS Navy, the decision on the fleet must be adopted by the leaders of the Commonwealth, and Black Sea personnel are outside politics. Unfortunately, not everyone understood that forcing the pace of events and involving the personnel of ships and units in political passions is disastrous for the fleet. I have not carried out any repressions and am not about to, but you will agree that it is abnormal when a commander serves according to one oath, his subordinates according to another... That way a warship could be turned into a political club. As commander of the fleet I cannot allow that. That is precisely why I, for example, removed Captain Second Class Shalyt from the command of a brigade of surface vessels. It seems to me that the following approach should apply here: If you want to serve in the armed forces of Ukraine or another Commonwealth state, fill in an application and try to transfer to a new service location. We will meet you halfway. But it is the fleet of the CIS that is standing in Sevastopol today. And, as I constantly stress, let us not be hasty, let us give the politicians an opportunity to make a wise decision. As the Commonwealth leaders decide, so it will be.

[Yermolin] Once again the military are being placed in a situation where they have to make political decisions. Are you not afraid, Igor Vladimirovich, of being left on the sidelines in all of this?

[Kasatonov] I am a military man. I obey the orders of my superiors. Legally, it is clear: The Black Sea Fleet is part of the CIS forces. All my actions as commander of the fleet are based on that premise.

[Yermolin] Why does the Ukrainian defense minister prefer to deal with you behind the back of the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff?

[Kasatonov] I do not know but indeed you get the impression that General Morozov completely ignores the fact that I am subordinate to the Main Staff of the Navy and the General Staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

[Yermolin] Comrade admiral, perhaps there is a logic to Ukraine's desire to have its own naval forces in the Black Sea?

[Kasatonov] We were not opposed from the very outset to helping Ukraine form its own fleet. We did our calculations and came to the conclusion that to resolve various tasks on its sea borders the republic needs a certain number of coastal and surface ships. We were ready to transfer those forces from the fleet. Naturally we would have helped with hardware and specialists, too. "No," a Rukh representative told me, "we need a big fleet." Why, and how much will its maintenance cost the republic? I received no reply to those questions. However, I said many times over that we are ready to give professional help in organizing the Ukrainian fleet just as soon as they ask us. But, as you can see, events developed in a different direction.

[Yermolin] The Russian president has visited the fleet. What changes were there in your position after B. Yeltsin's visit?

[Kasatonov] Boris Nikolayevich's visit made a great impression on us all. This was a powerful action by the Russian leader. As for my position, immediately after Yeltsin left for Moscow the Ukrainian president sent me a telegram in which he informed me that he considers my presence as commander of the fleet inexpedient. This was a purely political gesture of no practical significance. The only result was that there was a powerful wave of support for me. I am still carrying out my duties.

[Yermolin] Probably, this telegram caused not just a wave of solidarity with you but also a counterwave?

[Kasatonov] Undoubtedly there was also a wave of fierce attacks. I received letters and telegrams from irate Ukrainian citizens, public organizations, movements, and parties.

[Yermolin] Presumably the fleet's combat readiness in these conditions is not as high as it might be?

[Kasatonov] No, the fleet is performing its tasks. Although you are right: There have been certain negative aspects. I have in mind the men's low morale. The fuss over the oath, the uncertain future—all these things play a negative role. There is also the following factor: supposing the Ukrainian Defense Ministry bans a particular

ship from taking to sea for exercises... But the fleet is performing its functions and doing its duty.

[Yermolin] Igor Vladimirovich, how do you think the political battle for the Black Sea Fleet will end?

[Kasatonov] I hope that many things will be cleared up on 20 March. Great hopes are pinned on a political solution of the question. Then, of course, it will be spring and time to think about grain. In the Ukraine there are 55,000 tractors out of action. It is time to get down to work. It is not on the problem of the Black Sea Fleet that the Ukraine's life and prosperity depend today. I hope that the fate of the fleet will be decided within the framework of a civilized intergovernmental agreement.

[Yermolin] Stick with it, Comrade Admiral. One last question—under which flag will the Black Sea Fleet be performing its summer combat training?

[Kasatonov] You know, recently the St. Andrew's flag, which was consecrated in the Vladimir Cathedral, was ceremonially presented to me. It will be a great honor to take to sea under such a flag. If there is a decision taken on that I shall be first to hoist the St. Andrew's flag.

Efforts To Defuse Karabakh Crisis Cited

PM0503194192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Nothing in the World Today Is More Alarming Than the Events in Nagorno-Karabakh"]

[Text] The events in Nagorno-Karabakh have crossed the line which separates a bilateral conflict from a full-scale international crisis. March 4 was a day of unprecedented diplomatic activity—representatives of Azerbaijan, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Turkey made a number of important statements which largely define the positions of the interested sides for the immediate future.

According to an ITAR-TASS report, Boris Yeltsin urged the sides in the conflict to return to the provisions of the 20 February Moscow communique signed by the foreign ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia, which contains an appeal for a cease-fire and the commencement of talks. The Russian leader announced that he is sending a Russian Foreign Ministry mediatory mission to the region and promised to act in constant contact with the United Nations and the CSCE.

At the same time President Nazarbayev disseminated a statement in Alma-Ata proposing a specific settlement plan. According to ITAR-TASS information, it includes the following points: A decision on an immediate cease-fire and the lifting of the blockade of roads and communications is to be adopted in the Council of Heads of State; with a view to showing goodwill and peaceful aspirations, the process of creating their own armed forces is to be temporarily suspended in all the CIS states; a start is to be made without delay on the creation of special peacekeeping forces in crisis regions of the CIS, and these forces are to be subordinate to the Council of Commonwealth Heads of State.

Nazarbayev's initiative could be the most acceptable way out of the situation that has been created. However, an unprejudiced look at the present situation in the Commonwealth makes it possible to conclude that this plan will most likely not be realized either. First, the point about unblocking communications will be viewed skeptically by Azerbaijan, which has used the economic and energy blockade to put pressure on Armenia. Second, proceeding from some loftier goals, none of the CIS states which have begun forming national armies will back down on this question, and the sides involved in the conflict will not do so either. Third and finally, the good idea of creating CIS peacekeeping forces can only be realized under conditions of at least relative political and economic stability within the Commonwealth. The formation of such troops now will encounter insuperable difficulties.

Azerbaijani diplomacy has developed great activeness in parallel with the statements of Yeltsin and Nazarbayev. ITAR-TASS reports that at a news conference at the United Nations devoted to Azerbaijan's admission to UN membership Guseyn Sadykhov, the republic's foreign minister, advanced his own plan for a peaceful settlement with UN participation. This was an extraordinary event in itself, as previously Baku had categorically denied the possibility of international intervention, regarding the Karabakh crisis as a purely internal matter. According to ITAR-TASS, the project provides for a cease-fire, the disarmament of all the illegal armed formations operating on Karabakh territory—both Armenian and Azerbaijani—and also the stationing of UN forces along the border between the two states.

The minister sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali in which, referring to the events in Khodzhaly, he called for "the aggression against the people of Azerbaijan to be halted." Sadykhov's demarche was supported by Turkey. Almost simultaneously President Turgut Ozal and Husamettin Cindoruk, speaker of the Grand National Assembly (parliament), condemned "the Armenians' particularly brutal act of genocide against their Azeri brothers" and accused Western powers of holding to a "double standard" in their approach to the Karabakh problem.

If you analyze the plan submitted by the head of Azerbaijani diplomacy you will notice two points: the stationing of UN troops not in Karabakh but on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border—which virtually isolates the enclave from Armenia—and the at first sight impartial proposal to disarm all illegal formations. It is well known that a special-purpose militia detachment and the National Army—perfectly legal structures—are operating on the Azerbaijani side and are not subject to disarmament. Any attempts at self-defense on the part of the Armenian population will be regarded as illegal in

that case. I believe it is hardly possible to reckon that Sadykhov's plan will be developed further.

Despite increased diplomatic activity, the events of recent days still do not give rise to optimism regarding the prospects for a peaceful settlement. It is clear that neither side has yet shown a real interest in honest mediation. A full cease-fire, the Armenian and Azerbaijani leadership's acknowledgment of responsibility for the actions of their armed formations in Karabakh, the stationing of troops directly in the conflict zone, and the start of direct talks between Baku and Yerevan under the auspices of authoritative representatives of the world community are indispensable conditions for sending UN or CSCE international peacemaking forces into the region.

The preconditions for fulfilling these conditions do not exist today.

Karabakh Strife Shows Limits of CIS Army

92US0278A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 10, 4 Mar 92 p 2

[Commentary by Vladimir Lopatin, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Defense and Security: "Farewell to the Slavs? The 366th Regiment Is Pulling Out of Stepanakert, but the Problems of the Army Still Remain for the CIS"]

[Text] In my opinion the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh suggests three main conclusions based on its contradictory and strained nature.

The first is that the states, which have announced adherence to the standards of international law and to the declaration signed in December last year in Alma-Ata, including by representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan, should resolve all disputes by nonviolent means through negotiation, and agreements should follow this.

Second, if we announce today the creation of collective security and the resolution of joint questions within the framework of the CIS, we should have a mechanism to insure that security. Unfortunately, these mechanisms still do not exist. Accordingly, appeals by the two sides to international organizations and to the world community should be realized primarily at the level of the Commonwealth. For by joining the Commonwealth and signing documents, this is precisely the kind of solution they assumed.

Third, the Armed Forces should not be used in interethnic and interstate conflicts, even less within the framework of a single Commonwealth. They should not be dragged into the dangerous struggle as controversial issues are resolved. This politicizes the Army, transforms it into a subject of the political struggle for power, and forces it to resolves questions of its own protection independently. Therefore, whether we want it or not, during the resolution of a disputed issue by force the Army is also the target of attacks from both sides. This is why, to all appearances, within the CIS framework, with respect to the Armed Forces, including at hot spots, mechanisms and norms to block and protect the Army against such claims and attacks must be created, regardless of whether or not this army is a national army or a joint armed forces.

A fourth conclusion may also be drawn. Since the CIS is not a state but rather a commonwealth, and the Army acts as an element of a state, we will inevitably reach a situation in which each state has its own army, and they will be combined in the armed forces. Notwithstanding, to whom will the Armed Forces of the former USSR be subordinate pending reorganization of the republic armies? Here we face a choice. Either we preserve the Army in its earlier form and leave it under the command of Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the armed forces, while these Commonwealth mechanisms are lacking, which means that the military leadership will essentially act as a kind of 12th member of the CIS, as an independent state; or during the transitional period we insure effective state control over the command and the military sphere. I had hoped that this issue would be discussed in Minsk. Unfortunately, this did not happen. I think that it should be the subject of discussion in Kiev. It can be postponed no longer.

When it proclaims its statehood a state should establish legislative control over the military sphere, that is, it should pass a package of laws, including laws on the Defense Ministry, the Armed Forces, military policy, and the military budget. It should establish executive control, that is, create a Ministry of Defense as a civilian department headed by a civilian, where decisions on military questions should be reached at the political and administrative levels, while the generals should comply with those decisions, not make them. Finally, control should be exercised at the level of the courts by transferring the organs of military justice (and today in practical terms they are subordinate to the military command, and depend on it) to the territorial organs so as to insure compliance with the law within the framework of the armed forces. I say nothing of the need for public control in this sphere, which has always been of a closed nature. Today, in this period of instability and reorganization, this is needed as never before.

Spokesman Claims Adherence to Withdrawal Accord

OW0503192892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1819 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Colonel Golin, the spokesman of the North-Western Military group, told BF [BALTFAX] that the Russian troops were abiding by the agreement on the troop pullout entered into on February 1 by Riga and Moscow. In accordance with the agreement, the Russian side promised not to increase the number of troops deployed in the republic.

Colonel Golin said that any reports about conscripts and soldiers being sent to Latvia were groundless. Servicemen may only be moved across the Latvian territory from one unit to another, he said.

The Latvian defense ministry said earlier that conscripts from Russia and the other CIS countries were being sent to Latvia.

Political & Social

Poll Questions Citizens on Privatization Ideas

OW0603101492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0900 GMT 6 Mar 92

["Viewpoint" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The privatization programs in some former Soviet republics envisage the distribution of part of state property among the citizens of the republic through the reservation of certain sums at special privatization accounts. The owner of such account can use the sum only to participate in the redemption of the enterprise where he works or to buy shares of other enterprises.

Participants of the survey (989 respondents in Russia, 592 in Ukraine, 298 in Belarus, 388 in Estonia, 167 in Georgia, 488 in Kazakhstan, 481 in Uzbekistan) taken last January by the VCIOM [National Public Opinion Studies Center] were offered to answer if they supported this idea, the Data news agency reports.

	For	Against
Russia	43	27
Ukraine	44	21
Belarus	60	15
Estonia	51	20
Georgia	55	24
Kazakhstan	55	27
Uzbekistan	41	24

The rest were undecided.

The results of the survey show that this way of privatisation is most favoured in Belarus (with 4:1 ratio of for" and "against"), in Estonia and Georgia (5:2).

Those who favoured the idea were offered to answer the following question: "How do you think the share of a citizen must be determined when dividing the state property?"

	All must have the equal shares	The share of each citizen depends on his length of service	Another way
Russia	17	31	1
Ukraine	14	31	less than 1
Belarus	20	39	less than 1
Estonia	7	46	2
Kazakhstan	25	33	less than 1
Uzbekistan	14	29	0

The rest were undecided.

Media

TASS Review of CIS Countries for 5 Mar

LD0503222392 Moscow TASS in English 1837 GMT 5 Mar 92

["ITAR-TASS Newsbriefs from CIS countries for March 5"]

[Text] [no dateline as received] Moscow—The parliament of the Russian Federation has recommended that President Boris Yeltsin consider the question of forming a ministry of defence and a state committee for the protection of the border and economic zone.

The parliamentary committees and commissions have been instructed to draw up bills, together with the government, on defence, on the social protection of servicemen, on the external intelligence and on the state border of the Russian Federation, within three months (11).

Yerevan—A dramatic situation has developed in the energy sector of Armenia. Available at the Yerevan heating and power plant will suffice for 24 hours [as received]. The supply of gas for the population was fully discontinued since midday Thursday [5 March], and fuel has been directed to sustain the operation of the republic's major heating and power plant.

The entire industry of Armenia has been brought to a standstill and the so-called fanlike switching-off of electric power—when all residential blocks of Yerevan and all districts of the republic are available at the Yerevan hety [as received] one by one—has been extended. Only two railway trains with fuel oil have arrived in Armenia over the past 24 hours (12).

Baku—Yagub Mamedov, corresponding member of the republican Academy of Sciences and Rector of Azerbaijan Medical University, on Thursday was elected a new speaker of Azerbaijani parliament.

According to the new parliament chief, his concept is to unite all socio-political forces to stabilise the situation in Azerbaijan and to resolve the plant will suffice for 24 hours. The supply of gas for the population was fully discontinued since midday Thursday, and fuel has been directed to sustain the operation of the republic's major heating and power plant. Legation. The principal aim of the visit is to sign a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between France and Turkmenistan.

Yerevan—Eleven people were killed and 13 wounded in Kazanchi village of Mardakert district of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic as a result of an attempt by Azerbaijani units to take it by assault.

Units of the Azerbaijani National Army, supported by artillery and armour, launched an assault on the village at 18.00 at March 4. Local self-defence forces, with the aid of reinforcements from Stepanakert, repulsed the attack. On Thursday morning the Azerbaijanis again tried to seize the village and were beaten off again (15).

Moscow—More than 1,500 economic crimes have been revealed in Moscow since the beginning of this year, with 10 per cent of them qualified as serious.

According to statistics, more than 200 instances of theft, 147 instances of profiteery [as received], 38 instances of bribery and 95 breaches of currency regulations were exposed in the capital of Russia within January and February. Expert opinion is that expectations as to an "explosion" in this sphere in view of the liberalisation of prices, did not come true (16).

Kemerovo—The beginning of a warning strike has been announced in the Kuznetsk coal basin (Kuzbass). This step was taken after it became known that a government commission would not arrive in this largest coal-producing region of Western Siberia on Thursday.

"Before March 10, strikes will be called in sectors and then, if a government delegation fails to arrive, an all-Kuzbass strike will begin", Gennadiy Mikhailets, chairman of the Coordinating Council of Strike Committees, told ITAR-TASS.

"The strike has been prompted by incorrect actions of the Russian government which permitted of a huge artificial gap to develop between the miners' wages and those of the personnel in other sectors," Aman Tuleyev, chairman of the Kemerovo Regional Council, told ITAR-TASS (17).

Moscow—"Summer" time is to be introduced throughout the territory of the Russian Federation for the period of March 29 to September 27, 1992, Russia's state committee for standards announced on Thursday. In view of this, clock hands throughout Russia should be moved one hour forward at two a.m. on March 29 (18).

Moscow—The number of victims of the railway accident that took place in Tver region, North Western Russia, on March 3, amounted to 43, according to official data. However, this figure is not final so far.

The Russian government's commission, investigating the causes of the disaster, reported on Thursday night that 11 people had been hospitalised and medical aid had been given to 30 passengers who had sustained light bodily injuries (19).

TASS Carries Press Review for 6 Mar

LD0603061292 Moscow TASS in English 0553 GMT 6 Mar 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 6 TASS—Today's newspapers focus on the political situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States, including Moldova and Nagorno-Karabakh.

"An ampule with radioactive cesium has been stolen in the Dnestr region. This is enough to turn the whole Moldova into a contaminated cemetery," the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA says in an article about the conflict in the republic which killed ten and wounded 40 people.

"The army maintained neutrality during the events in Dubossary and turned out to be between the hard and the rock," the army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA said.

The newspaper TRUD carries reports from Armenia and Azerbaijan published under the title "The Tragedy of Karabakh."

Newspapers carry reports about the trip to Georgia by Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov and Vice Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and the situation in Tatarstan on the eve of a republican referendum on its independence scheduled for March 21.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an interview with Farid Mukhametshin, Tatarstan parliamentary speaker.

Newspapers also report about the death of Russian actor Yevgeniy Yevstigneyev from a heart attack in a London hospital on March 4 and a rally held by Stalinists in Moscow.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA offers an article by Viktor Tretyakov, where he speaks about the political fate and future of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

TRUD carries an interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, in which he speaks about the results of his recent trip to Africa.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes results of a poll taken in the armed forces in February. The newspaper stresses that the army has split over the current events in the country and warns about the growing social tension in the armed forces.

Only 17 percent of respondents supported the governmental programme of reforms, while 56 criticised it. A

total of 90 percent of those polled said the country should be ruled not by the military but by professional politicians and economists.

The newspaper also offers an interview with former KGB Colonel Oleg Nechiporenko.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes a letter by Academician Nikolay Petrakov and Doctors of Sciences Vladimir Perlamutrov, Viktor Borozdin and Vladimir Manevich, in which they say "the government has lost control over economic processes" in Russia.

They urged Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian parliament to "hold urgent hearings on the economic situation and make a decision." They believe a stable exchange rate and exports control will help saturate the country's market and balance prices and salaries.

The newspaper also publishes amendments to the governmental plan of privatisation proposed by the Supreme Economic Council.

"We support the government's measures to reduce subsidies to state enterprises," Vladimir Ispravnikov, head of the council, said.

Newspapers also write about former East German leader Erich Honecker, who is staying at the Chilean Embassy in Moscow.

International Affairs

Baker Note Lauds Nagorno-Karabakh Mediation

OW0503161192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] US Secretary of State James Baker highly estimates the Russian Foreign Ministry's mediation in settling the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. In a verbal note to his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev, James Baker described as progress the Azeri-Armenian communique on Nagorno-Karabakh, signed in Moscow at the end of February with the Russian Foreign Ministry's mediation.

James Baker believes that the Russian Foreign Ministry played the key role in having this declaration accepted by both sides. The Russian Foreign Ministry's further efforts are vitally important for ensuring that the provisions of the communique be implemented and the dialogue continued.

This is a difficult task, James Baker believes. It is therefore vitally important to prevent the conflicting parties from obtaining weapons belonging to the former Soviet Army. "The proliferation of weapons in this region would cause the escalation of violence and undermine efforts to find a stable solution of the problem, the verbal note says. [quotation mark as received]

It also says that the implementation of the provisions set forth in the communique would represent the Azeri and Armenian government's breakthrough towards the termination of violence and the beginning of settlement through talks based on trust.

James Baker has sent corresponding notes in support of the communique and of the Russian Foreign Ministry's mediatory efforts to Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisyan and Azeri Foreign Minister Guseynaga Sadykhov.

Upcoming Jun Summit With U.S. Previewed

PM0603125192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Russo-U.S. Summit Meeting Scheduled for Mid-June. Both Sides Need Agreements"]

[Excerpts] Washington—The White House's announcement about the upcoming Russo-U.S. summit meeting, the first "full-scale" meeting between the two leaders, was uncommonly prosaic and routine—not at all like earlier announcements of Soviet-U.S. summits.

Before boarding his helicopter and setting off on yet another campaign tour, President George Bush talked for several minutes with reporters who had been waiting for him on the south lawn of the White House and who, judging from their questions, were far more interested in domestic issues than foreign policy. During this talk he reminded the journalists that he would be meeting with his Russian colleague in Washington 16-17 June. "This will be an excellent opportunity for us to continue the discussions we had at Camp David in February," the U.S. President said. [passage omitted]

The summit meeting will be held in extremely interesting circumstances—circumstances in which, in the view of U.S. political analysts, there are very grave doubts about the stability and durability of the Yeltsin regime, and at the same time there is growing uncertainty about Bush's ability to get himself elected in November for a second four-year term of government in the White House. It has therefore not been ruled out that Bush and Yeltsin's first summit could turn out to be their last.

Something else has not been ruled out either—that Bush wants to play the "Yeltsin card": By inviting a man who is fairly popular in the United States (though not as popular as Gorbachev once was) to visit him at the height of the election campaign, the U.S. President is thereby attempting to bolster his own prestige and authority.

His prestige could be enhanced if the summit participants reach some kind of major agreements that are substantive in content and sonorous in tone. Agreements of this kind are possible, most probably in the sphere of nuclear disarmament. According to hypotheses being floated here, Bush and Yeltsin will reach agreement on cutting U.S. and CIS strategic nuclear arsenals to an even greater extent than was previously contemplated. It is expected that just prior to the summit the Senate of the U.S. Congress will ratify the START Treaty that Bush signed last summer with Gorbachev.

As the AP news agency's diplomatic correspondent noted—not without irony—now that the cold war is behind us, agreements about nuclear arsenals are far easier to reach than agreements about massive financial aid to Russia... What Bush can offer Yeltsin on the economic aid front is far from clear. [passage omitted]

Yeltsin To Visit South Korea in Sep

LD0503181692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin is to visit South Korea in September, one of the President's aides Yuriy Petrov said in an interview to the independent South Korean TV company SBS. Yuriy Petrov expressed satisfaction with the progress made in relations between the two countries in the economic and other areas.

Yeltsin Appoints Silayev Representative to EC

LD0603082692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0800 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Moscow, 6 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has appointed Ivan

Silayev permanent representative of the Russian Federation to the EC in Brussels. [passage omitted]

He holds the diplomatic rank of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary.

Yeltsin on Assistance for Katyn Incident Probe

LD0203194192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian President Yeltsin has instructed that assistance be given to the investigation group of the military procurator's office in its inquiry into the circumstances of the execution of over 15,000 Polish POW's on USSR territory in 1941, at Stalin's decision. It is expected that the question of the Katyn tragedy will be raised during the visit to Moscow by Polish President Lech Walesa.

Aven Arrives in PRC, Comments on Cooperation

LD0503152292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0800 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Kirillov]

[Text] Beijing, 5 Mar (TASS)— "We have come here to sign a trade and economic agreement, which is the first agreement between Russia and China," Petr Aven, chairman of the Russian Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and Russian minister of foreign economic relations, stated at "Shoudu" airport. He arrived in Beijing today on a visit.

He continued: We hope that our trade and economic cooperation successfully will develop. The Russian side sees China as a very promising partner. Links with this country are of great importance today, especially when we are thinking a great deal about developing our export potential, above all, in the sphere of civil machine-building. It can be said that in this sense we are more than interested in China.

P. Aven spoke in favor of overcoming the negative tendencies which appeared in trade with China last year, including a drop in the volume of goods traffic. All innovations in "the Chinese direction," he noted, will correspond to the new mechanism for regulating foreign economic activity which is now being implemented in our country. This means greater orientation toward direct contacts between producers and enterprises themselves with the role of the state as "a center providing" for this activity.

Answering a question by an ITAR-TASS correspondent, P. Aven confirmed that he also plans to discuss the issue of military deliveries to China. "In the past, we used to have great military and technical cooperation and, undoubtedly, this will be continued. It was broken off in the sixties, but was restored at the end of the eighties." The minister did not specify what araments types and items will be discussed. He added, however, that such trade with the PRC is conducted only on a commercial basis. "Weapons are also goods. Specific, but goods," he said.

It is expected that during his visit P. Aven will hold talks with his Chinese opposite, Li Lanqing, and with other officials. According to information from Chinese customs, Russian-Chinese trade, which is mainly barter trade, now accounts for about 80 percent of the volume of the former Soviet-Chinese goods traffic. This amounted to $3.9 billion in 1991.

Signs Economic Agreement

LD0503195492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Petr Aven, Russia's minister for foreign economic ties, and Li Lanqing, PRC foreign economic relations and trade minister, met for talks in Beijing today. The sides expressed confidence that the results of the visit will facilitate the expansion of foreign economic ties between Russia and the PRC. They signed an intergovernmental agreement on trade and economic cooperation which will create a legal basis for the successful development of mutually advantageous economic relations between the two countries.

Kozyrev Arrives in Copenhagen for Conference

LD0503175692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1145 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Nikolay Vukolov, Aleksandr Sidorov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Copenhagen, 5 Mar (TASS)—Andrey Kozyrev, foreign minister of the Russian Federation, arrived here today. He will take part in the conference of the foreign ministers of the Baltic Sea countries which opens in the Danish capital today.

This forum plans to consider ways of strengthening cooperation between the Baltic states and to make a decision on setting up a Council of the Baltic Sea States. Its task will be to give a new impetus to practical cooperation and coordination of actions between the countries of the region in a number of spheres of mutual interest.

Andrey Kozyrev's working visit to Denmark will take place after the work of the conference is concluded. The Russian minister will hold talks with Prime Minister Poul Schluter and Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen.

Addresses Baltic Conference

LD0503214192 Moscow TASS in English 2046 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Nikolay Vukolov, Aleksandr Sidorov, and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Copenhagen, March 5 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev addressed a Baltic foreign ministers' conference that opened here on Thursday [5 March].

Only several months ago, he said, a foreign ministers' meeting in such a format was inconceivable. The emergence of independent democratic states in the Baltic area is a reality now and, in a broader context, is an evidence of in-depth changes in Europe as a whole, particularly in Eastern Europe.

"European democracy is getting a historic chance, a prospect for a world order based on common values and a vision of ways to ensure security both internal and external one. To miss this chance would be irresponsible with respect to our peoples. It is time to cease indulging in verbal euphoria and in rejoicing at the break-up of the confrontational system.

"Life has prompted the need for an immediate establishment of cooperation mechanisms so as to ensure through joint efforts the irreversibility of positive changes prevent the restoration of a totalitarian order in a new wrapping. This task is both global and regional and it must be tackled at all levels.

"Russia considers as timely the initiative of the Danish and German counterparts who came forward with the idea of instituting a Council of Baltic Sea States. We support the list of priorities for Baltic cooperation reflected in the documents which we are yet to endorse.

"We are grateful to Denmark both as the host of the conference and for its substantial contribution to preparing the documents. We see our task in orienting the Council's work to practical returns, to specific projects in priority areas of cooperation. The purpose number one is to strengthen democratic institutions. It would be of particular importance to focus efforts on the exchange of experience in regional, municipal management in civil society", Kozyrev said.

"Human rights are the all-pervading subject. The democratic convictions of people in Russia allow us to regard criticism leveled at us as support. But these selfsame convictions prompt us to frankly express concern over the actions of some of our Baltic partners. The more so as Russian democrats were together with them in upholding their sovereign rights. We suggest upholding human rights jointly now as well, including those of Russians in Baltic countries.

"Meanwhile the Russian parliament's committee on interregional relations did not deem it possible to recommend a treaty with Latvia for ratification because of an unfavourable human rights situation concerning the non-Lettish population.

"People's deputies of Russia keenly reacted to the Latvian parliament resolution dated January 22, this year, which in point of fact lays territorial claims upon Russia. The deputies are also concerned over matters concerning the ensurance of the rights of the Russian-speaking population in Estonia and Lithuania. In this respect, I must say that this criticism of ours does not at all mean any crisis in relations. Moreover, it must become a natural sign of their friendly nature.

"I would suggest exchanging views on what democratic governments and parliaments can and must do to resist still more resolutely the manifestations of nationalist extremism, particularly organised one, xenophobia, and discrimination on an ethnic bases. I will not conceal that this is topical for Russia as well, considering the vociferousness of a certain new red-and-brown bloc.

"Priorities of a Council of Baltic Sea States, which is being established here today, i think, must be to strengthen the obligations of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and to provide it with subregional mechanisms, including those to monitor the observance of the rights of ethnic minorities, the inviolability of borders, etc. Why not think of instituting a post of council commissioner for human rights and ethnic minorities?

"I am convinced that cooperation between our states may become a tangible contribution to making the entire Baltic belt a zone of steady economic growth, high living standards and reduced pressure on the environment, in short, one of European development centres notable for a new quality of life.

"Finally discarding the politico-ideological 'iron curtain', Russia seeks to open a window on Europe in friendly partnership with all Baltic states, not in confrontation.

"We shall be reliable members of a new Hansa, a north European alliance with lofty spiritual and ethical standards," Kozyrev emphasised.

Speaking during a discussion on the subject "Economic assistance and cooperation", Andrey Kozyrev pointed out in particular that democratic transfomations and reforms ensuring a transition to a market economy in a number of Baltic states are in need of support and "offer new challenges".

It is not a question of gaining any one-sided advantages. Economic cooperation is inconceivable any otherwise than on a mutually beneficial basis, Kozyrev said.

The main thing in resolving this problem is to "invest capital—in both direct and figurative sense of the word—in ensuring stability in our region and Europe as a whole in the process of natural all-European integration on the basis of common values and interests".

Russia's areas directly adjoining the Baltics—St. Petersburg with the adjacent area, Kaliningrad region, and Karelia which directly neighbours on the Baltics—are the region of north-western Russia which is called upon to become and active partner in Baltic cooperation, Kozyrev said.

Various cooperation projects are already in the works, including those through the establishment of special economic zones with favourable conditions for foreign investments, such as the Yantar in Kaliningrad, he added.

Kozyrev said the developing process of defence production conversion to civilian uses in Russia offers interesting opportunities in this respect. Other spheres, particularly in the development of infrastructure and transport, may also be the subject of economic cooperation, he added.

The Russian minister said he intended to inform participants in the forum of a "Baltic project" which envisages the establishment of a south Baltic transport system embracing Germany, Poland, Kaliningrad region, the newly independent Baltic states, St. Petersburg, and Finland.

The implementation of this project, the minister said, would signify "a tangible contribution to the establishment of a regional infrastructure of stability and the integration of the Baltics into Europe". Specialised forums, similar to a Baltic transport ministers' conference, to be held at Szeczin in mid-March, may serve as a great help in this respect.

In this connection Kozyrev suggested considering the possibility of holding a similar meeting of Baltic economics and industry ministers.

The first session of the Council of Baltic Sea States will contunue its work on Friday [6 March].

Aide Denies Military Deal Signed With DPRK

PM0503200192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Gennadiy Charodeyev report: "General Samsonov Did Not Sign Agreement on Military-Technical Cooperation in Pyongyang"]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will have a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Brussels on the morning of 11 March. V. Churkin, chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry Information Administration, reminded journalists of this at a regular briefing.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman denied an IZVESTIYA report that the trip to the DPRK by Colonel General V. Samsonov, chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces General Staff, was connected with the signing of an agreement on military-technical cooperation. The purpose of the visit to Pyongyang, Churkin emphasized, was to sign a plan of imminent measures to develop ties between the CIS Joint Armed Forces and the Korean People's Army.

The briefing presenter reported that information had been heard at the Russian Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities session that a pogrom organized by a group of nationalists headed by an oblast soviet deputy had occurred recently in the cultural center of the A.S. Pushkin Russian Society in Lvov. The said persons had burst into the society's building shouting offensive anti-Russian and anti-Semitic slogans and had smashed furniture. Such an act of hooliganism, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman stated, is of an overtly provocative nature and is clearly aimed at fanning interethnic enmity. The involvement of an official aggravates what happened all the more.

Chile Called To Expel Honecker From Embassy

LD0603114592 Hamburg DPA in German 1117 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—The Russian Government has now officially called on Chile to expel former state and party leader Erich Honecker from its Moscow Embassy. This was announced to the German charge d'affaires in Moscow by Russian Justice Minister Nikolay Fedorov, according to the (German) Foreign Ministry today. Russia regards the Chilean ambassador's behavior as an "unfriendly act."

Honecker will be deported to Germany as soon as he leaves the embassy, Fedorov said. Earlier Charge d'Affaires Eberhard Heyken again conveyed Germany's demand for the handing over of Honecker to the justice minister. He will do the same at the Foreign Ministry today, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Hanns Schumacher in Bonn.

A discussion between Wiegand Pabsch, the German ambassador in Santiago, and Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva is expected at midday. Pabsch will underscore the Federal Government's demand for an immediate end to Honecker's stay in the embassy. Schumacher said it was "not unusual" for the Federal Government to publish the note to the Chilean Government, which was worded in an unfriendly tone, in Bonn on 5 March. This usually helps to lend weight to a note. This aim has evidently been achieved in the present case.

However, annoyance at Germany's actions have been reported in Chilean circles. A decision by the Chilean Government is not expected until next week, when Clodomiro Almeyda, the recalled ambassador to Moscow, arrives in Santiago.

Mongolian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

LD0403182592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1712 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 4 March (ITAR-TASS)—Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren arrived in Moscow this evening for a working visit. During the visit, discussion of development of bilateral economic relations—specifically, of trade-economic cooperation between Russia and Mongolia for the current year, are expected. The sides will conduct an exchange of views on

the situation in both countries and will discuss the position in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world.

Asks Trade Regulations Lifting

OW0503181792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Trransmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Prime Minister of Mongolia Dashiyn Byambasuren called for the licensing and quota systems to be eliminated in Russia's trade with Mongolia. At a meeting with the chairman of the ethnic council of the Russian Supreme Soviet Ramazan Abdulatipov in Moscow Thursday [5 March] the Prime Minister said he hopes the Russian parliament will change the policy.

Byambasuren said that Mongolia places great emphasis on development of relations with Russia. However, he said that events of last year-and-a-half have had an adverse affect. He referred in particular to the stopage of shipments of food and other products from the former USSR. As a result Mongolia had no sugar in January.

Ramazan Abulatipov said that Russia "can and will cooperate closely with Mongolia".

Abdulatipov and Byambasuren agreed that a new friendship agreement between Russia and Mongolia must be drawn up soon.

Security Issues Facing Russia Discussed

MK0603114592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Mar 92 p 2

["Opinion" article by Sergey Rogov, deputy director of the United States and Canada Institute: "Does Russia Need Its Own National Security Policy? The Legal Successor to the USSR Cannot Remain the Same Country in Everything But Name"]

[Text] Russia has again emerged into the world arena. The tricolor flag has been raised over the embassies of the former USSR in various countries of the world. Russia is taking over the Soviet Union's debts and commitments and has become a member of the UN Security Council. But it would be naive to expect to be able to confine ourselves to merely replacing the concept of the USSR with the concept of Russia in the familiar formulas of international politics.

The international system that Russia has joined as a full member differs from our familiar world in that it is multipolar. In a multipolar world Russia can become one of the great powers, but it will scarcely be a "superpower." The Russian Federation, although it is the legal successor to the Soviet Union and the Russian empire, is by no means the same country in everything but name. After all, a state like today's Russia has not previously existed either politically (the democratic structure), economically (the liberal market economy), or even geographically (within the borders inherited from the RSFSR). The new Russia has yet to determine its identity, character, national interests, and place in the modern world.

Almost before it has been revived, the Russian state has already run up against its first crisis in the foreign policy sphere. The agreements on creating the CIS may prove to be merely scraps of paper without any specific content. Russia is faced with the threat of being dragged into a conflict with Ukraine and the other former Soviet republics. In these conditions fundamental decisions on questions of its national security can be delayed no longer.

First of all it is necessary to impose order in the machinery for making decisions on military-political questions. At present Russia has no such mechanism. But secrecy, improvisation, a failure to speak with one voice, and a gap between declarations and real policy are impermissible here.

So it is very important to create as soon as possible a Russian National Security Council which, under the president's leadership, should elaborate Russia's national security strategy; prepare alternative possible positions on specific issues; provide information support and perform the functions of operational control in crises; and coordinate the fulfillment of the president's decisions by ministries and departments.

Three Circles of Interests

You can imagine Russia's security interests, in their foreign policy dimension, in the form of three concentric circles.

Russia's relations with the former Soviet republics are of prime, priority importance. The greatest danger today is that of being dragged into territorial and national conflicts with these states. It is vitally important for Russia to avoid such a development of events and to establish friendly relations and preferably allied relations with its immediate neighbors, where tens of millions of Russian citizens live.

The second circle of Russia's security interests is connected with regions such as East Europe, the Near East, and the Far East, which were traditionally part of the USSR's sphere of interests. Although Russia is now separated from these regions (except for the Far East) by a belt of former Soviet republics, geopolitically and economically we cannot withdraw from these parts of the world. Moreover, certain former republics may find themselves under the influence of regional power centers like China or Iran. Conflicts in these regions could lead to Russian involvement.

Relations with China and Japan may to a considerable extent determine the future "contribution made by

Siberia to increasing Russia's wealth." If relations with its great neighbors in Asia deteriorate Russia may miss this opportunity.

The third circle is Russia's relations with the West, primarily the United States and West Europe. Even in the event of more radical cuts (of 75-80 percent) in strategic nuclear arms Russia and the United States will retain the capacity for "mutual assured destruction," which will impart a special character to Russian-American strategic relations, which may be transformed from confrontation to quasi-alliance.

Moreover, the prospects of Russia's participation in European or North Atlantic integration will be of fundamental importance from the viewpoint of the development of democratic principles and market relations in our country. If we find ourselves outside these integration processes, we will have to reconcile ourselves to lagging hopelessly behind the developed countries, and Russia's "Eurasian" nature will inevitably take on an increasingly Asian tinge.

Will Russia's vital interests be global in scale? This is hardly likely in the immediate future. Events in Africa or South America and in a number of other regions of the world will probably not directly affect our state's security.

Today the main threat to Russia's national security is by no means linked with the danger of military aggression. An external enemy may appear in the future, but in the meantime Russia's security is threatened by explosive internal problems. Centrifugal tendencies are intensifying inside the Russian Federation as a result of the exacerbation of the socioeconomic situation and interethnic conflicts.

Of course, this does not mean that Russia can embark on unilateral disarmament. Military force remains an important factor in ensuring national security, but there is no point in our continuing the Soviet policy of an arms race with the whole of the rest of the world. In the international arena Russia needs not confrontation with power centers like the United States, West Europe, China, and Japan, but a quest for reliable partners and allies.

How To Create a Defensive Community

These natural partners for Russia could be the CIS members, with which we are united not only by common economic and political problems, but also by the huge Soviet military machine, which remains almost untouched. Since the disintegration of the USSR there have effectively been no controls on its Armed Forces. The former USSR Defense Ministry is only nominally subordinate to the CIS Council of Heads of State and in fact is defending its own departmental interests, endeavoring to preserve the structures that existed in the unified state and reducing the necessary fundamental reforms to purely cosmetic changes.

Essentially the Army has ceased to be an instrument of state policy today. It has been deprived of civilian political control and has been left to its own devices. An intolerable situation has arisen whereby the military themselves have to decide to which state they should be subordinate, if indeed to any. Demoralization and the decline in discipline have reached an explosive point in the Armed Forces, as was graphically shown by the All-Army Officers' Assembly, which reacted enthusiastically to Colonel Alksnis' calls.

It looks as though Russia made a serious mistake in refusing to define its own approach toward military questions, giving carte-blanche to the Defense Ministry. This merely frightened the other CIS members, which suspected Russia of imperial intentions. As a result the Brest, Alma-Ata, and Minsk meetings missed the opportunity to create a military-political alliance by transforming the Army into Commonwealth Joint Armed Forces (except for those troops placed under the jurisdiction of individual states under an agreed procedure). Compromise formulas such as "unified command of a common military-strategic space" cannot solve a problem on which the security of Russia and the whole world depends.

The Commonwealth's Joint Strategic Armed Forces cannot exist in a political vacuum. They need a juridical basis in the form of a Treaty on the Collective Security of the CIS and a political structure (patterned on the NATO organs). This will be possible only if Russia agrees that the other members of the alliance should have equal rights with it, including the formation on a basis of parity of the supreme coordinating political and military organs to which the Joint Armed Forces would be subordinate.

Therefore this scenario makes it impermissible to continue to equate joint and Russian military structures. Russia must be a member of the joint organs, but it must not allow the Defense Ministry of the former USSR to supplant its own Russian structures. So the creation of a Russian Defense Ministry cannot be postponed. Clearly, it must have a civilian leadership, which would make it possible to ensure reliable political control over Russia's Armed Forces.

Besides the coalition approach, Russia's military-political relations with certain former USSR republics will have to be based on bilateral agreements. This probably applies not only to the Baltic states but also to Ukraine.

It is the inalienable right of any sovereign state to create its own army. But Ukraine is consistently seeking a totally free hand [samostiynost] in military-political questions without taking Russian interests into account at all. Moreover, you get the impression that Ukraine regards Russia with great suspicion, fearing territorial claims by it.

In order to prevent an escalation of relations with Ukraine, Russia must compromise by acknowledging

Ukrainian control of the troops of the Kiev, Carpathian, and Odessa Districts and at least part of the Black Sea Fleet. However, the agreement to transfer these forces to Ukrainian jurisdiction should be made conditional on three points:

—the inclusion within the CIS Joint Strategic Armed Forces, in accordance with the Minsk agreement and in addition to the Strategic Rocket Forces grouping and missile warning systems, of the 24th Air Force Army (strategic aviation), some of the air defense systems, all the tactical nuclear arms, and also the main forces of the Black Sea Fleet;

—terms for the partial withdrawal and disbandment of the Joint Strategic Armed Forces grouping on Ukraine's territory after all the strategic nuclear arms on its territory have been destroyed by the end of 1994, in accordance with Ukraine's pledge, must be agreed in advance;

—an agreement should immediately be signed with Ukraine on its reduction of its conventional arms to a predetermined level on the basis of the quota set by the Paris treaty for the USSR with regard to tanks, armored vehicles, aircraft, and helicopters. Otherwise the problem of sharing out the Soviet quota could be a source of conflict between Russia and Ukraine, since according to the General Staff's former plans 40-45 percent of all conventional arms on the European territory of the former USSR were to be stationed in Ukraine.

Does Russia Need Its Own Army?

Russia could become the only CIS nuclear state if nuclear arms are totally eliminated in Ukraine, Belarus, and possibly Kazakhstan. Russia's nuclear status would reliably guarantee its security against external aggression in the foreseeable future. In these conditions does Russia need to keep 3-4 million men under arms? There is neither the strategic need nor the economic resources for this.

Clearly, the creation of Russian Armed Forces is inevitable. In addition to the troops stationed in Russia (over 2 million men), they would include the Soviet troops currently on the territory of foreign states—in Germany, Poland, and the Baltic states (about 400,000 of them)—since no former Soviet republic is laying claim to them.

Clearly, Belarus (220,000 men) will follow Ukraine (550,000) in taking command of the troops on its territory. At present the situation with regard to the troops stationed in Kazakhstan, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus (a total of over 650,000) is unclear. If they choose to switch to Russian jurisdiction this could lead to serious complications in Russia's relations with these states, including demands for the speediest withdrawal of these troops and the advancement of claims to their arms.

At any rate, Russia will scarcely be able in the immediate future to deploy over 1 million additional troops on its territory. Clearly, large-scale reductions in the strength of the Army are inevitable as early as this year. This will require the immediate implementation of a well thought-out and expensive program for the social adaptation of the discharged servicemen in order to avoid very dangerous political consequences.

These problems can be solved only in the course of a process of transition whereby the armies of the independent states are formed on the basis of units of the former USSR Armed Forces while the rest of the troops remain under joint CIS control.

Germany Denies Offering Kuriles Mediation

PM0403140192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 9? Morning Edition p 1

["Own Information" report in the "From Our Correspondents and World Agencies" column: "Denial in Tokyo and Bonn"]

[Text] According to statements in the Japanese press, both Tokyo and Bonn have denied reports of Germany's agreement to mediate in the solution of the territorial disputes between Japan and Russia.

Japanese newspapers cite Japanese Foreign Ministry "circles" and an official representative of the German Foreign Ministry.

Committee Offers Plan

OW0503133192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1034 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The committee for the return of the Kuril islands in Nemuro, Japan, has sent a plan of the development of the four islands of the northern territories.

The committee believes that the withdrawal of Russian troops should be the first step to the return of the islands to Japan. After that the islands could be declared a zone of cohabitation of Japanese and Russian citizens. The Japanese who lived in the islands earlier and their relatives could return, their property rights should be guaranteed. I

On economy the Japanese side suggests joint access to natural resources and exchanges of them.

Deputy head of the department of South-East Asia and the Pacific at the Russian Foreign Ministry Vasily Saplin has told IF [INTERFAX] that all experts and the ministry leadership consider the return of the South Kurils to Japan quite natural and inevitable. He said the 1956 Soviet-Japanese declaration should be carried out.

Kurils Handover Opposed

PM0603105992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Mar 92 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "We Will Hand Over the South Kurils. What Will We Hand Over Next?"]

[Text] Russian People's Deputy Lieutenant General Mikhail Barybin, chief of the Pacific Border Guard District Troops, has categorically spoken out against the transfer of the South Kuril islands to Japan. He made this statement at a meeting with his electorate in the Far East settlement of Anuchino. Furthermore, the general stressed that any concession to territorial claims, regardless of who makes them, may take on the characteristics of a chain reaction.

Kurils Settlement Assessed

924C0758A Moscow TRUD in Russian 27 Feb 92 p 3

[Correspondent S. Bunin report: "The 'Northern Territories': Much Is Unclear"]

[Text] Following the recent Moscow round of meetings of the Russian-Japanese working group on problems of signing a peace treaty, Kunihiko Saito, representative of the Japanese side, told reporters: It is still somewhat early to be making optimistic forecasts regarding the fact that the territorial question could be settled before the end of the current year.

This acknowledgment by a senior official of the Foreign Ministry will cool somewhat, I believe, the inordinate optimism which had suddenly come to reign in Japan prior to the start of the consultations in Moscow. "Return of the Northern Territories Day" (timed to coincide with the anniversary of the signing of the 1855 Shimoda Treaty, which secured for Japan four islands—Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashir, and Iturup) was commemorated in extremely turbulent fashion on this occasion also. And official circles had assured the public: The government is intent on finally having this matter out with Russia prior to President B. Yeltsin's scheduled September visit to Japan. And in the words of Foreign Minister M. Watanabe, the main thing now is to "work" with the inclusion "of the Russian public" in order to have it "correctly understand Japan's position."

There followed as a "good will gesture" from the Japanese side a promise by Premier K. Miyazawa to consider "positively" the question of Russian citizens residing on the disputed islands being accorded the right to permanent residence (such a "privilege" has been bestowed on the large colony of Koreans living in Japan). On the other hand, those who do not wish to become Japanese subjects are promised the allocation of assistance sufficient to set up home elsewhere. There were also unambiguous hints about generous financial injections into the development of the islands' decrepit infrastructure.

"No specific paths for a solution to the problem were proposed on the Russian side," acknowledged K. Saito, head of the Japanese delegation. "It is also unclear as yet," continued the representative of Japan's Foreign Ministry, "what will be taken as the reference point in subsequent negotiations, the next round of which will take place shortly in Tokyo; whether it will be the joint declaration of 1956, in accordance with which the Soviet Union promised to hand over to Japan two islands following the signing of a peace treaty, or the first Russian-Japanese treaty of 1855, on whose territorial provisions Japan's official position rests, in the main."

The Japanese evaluated as a positive fact the manifestation of "flexibility" on the Russian side and its intention to tackle the problem in a more "positive" key.

Agriculture Minister Meets With EC Council

LD2802130392 Moscow TASS in English 1549 GMT 27 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels, February 27 [dateline as received]—Mutual interest in development of cooperation between the European Community and Russia in the field of agriculture was expressed during the visit to Brussels by the Russian delegations headed by the Minister for Agriculture Viktor Khlistun at the invitation of the Council of the European Community (CEC). During the talks held with the member of the CEC in charge of agricultural policy, Ray Macsharry, questions regarding technical assistance for Russia's reforms, and support to new structures being created there, including private farms, were discussed. Both sides exchanged views on the most effective provision of aid to the new Commonwealth for developing Russian agriculture and other concrete spheres in which they are to cooperate. The delegation also had a meeting with the secretary of state for European affairs and agriculture Paul de Keersmaeker. One of the results of the meeting was the accord on Russia's commitments to continue its activities in the working group of agriculture and agricultural industrial complex within the framework of the agreement on economic, industrial and scientific-technical cooperation between the former USSR and Belgian-Luxembourg economic union. In the protocol signed during the meeting the priorities of directions of development are contemplated, including training of personnel, modernization of family farms and agricultural industries, such as milk, sugar, vegetable oil and mixed fodders.

Talks Continue With Lithuania on Supplies

OW0403211792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1949 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Moscow, representatives of Lithuania and Russia continue their talks on mutual supplies for 1992. According to sources close to the Lithuanian delegation, no agreement concerning the volume of oil supplies from Russia has been reached.

The leader of the Lithuanian delegation, Deputy-Minister for Economy Vytas Navickas, told BF [BALTFAX] that Russia had drafted several variants of the agreement on oil supplies. One of them does not envisage state supplies at all, and deals with the supplies of 2 million tons obtained from enterprises. According to another variant, Lithuania is expected to receive 5 million tons of oil, including state supplies and the oil directly purchased from Russian enterprises. Lithuania would like to obtain more oil, said Vytas Novickas.

Agreement on the supplies of natural gas for 1992 has been reached already. Russia will supply 4.1 billion cubic meters of gas to Lithuania. Last year, gas supplies stood at 6.3 billion cubic meters—an amount adequate to Lithuania's needs.

According to a preliminary agreement, Lithuania, in its turn, will supply Russia with 70,000 tons of meat and 400,000 tons of milk.

The agreements reached are expected to be signed this week by Lithuanian Premier Gediminas Vagnorius and Russian First Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar.

Oil Supply Agreement Reached

LD0503164892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The BALTIC NEWS SERVICE reports that Lithuania will receive 3,000,000 tonnes of oil and 4.1 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Russia this year. The Lithuanian delegation managed to reach this agreement today in Moscow, where the Lithuanian-Russian negotiations on mutual supplies for the current year are under way. Lithuanian Economy Minister Vytas Navickas told the correspondent that, apart from this agreed quantity, some 2,500,000 tonnes of oil will be included on the list which Lithuania will be able to import from Russia on direct contracts. However, Navickas reported that 1,500,000 tonnes of oil from Russia has already been received and consumed. Separate lists for power engineering raw materials and foodstuffs will not be compiled as was done in the Latvian and Estonian agreements with Russia. All the goods will be included on common indicating lists which do not guarantee (?the supply) but only will grant the right to purchase these goods. It is expected that the representatives of Lithuania and Russia will sign yet another agreement guaranteeing the supply of the most vital goods at state level.

More on Oil Agreement

OW0503164892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1345 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In 1992 Russia will supply to Lithuania 3 million tons of oil at world prices. The agreement was reached at the ongoing Moscow talks on mutual shipments for the next year. This information was provided to BF [BALTFAX] by head of the Lithuanian delegation, deputy minister of the republican economy Vytas Navickas. He also said that over the past two months Lithuania had consumed 1.5 million tons of Russian oil. Lithuania needs about 10 million tons of oil annually. The lists of supplies will possibly include another 2.5 million tons of oil which Lithuania expects to receive directly from Russian manufacturers.

Documents on mutual shipments are expected to be signed by Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius and Russian First Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar within a week.

Dunayev on Baltic OMON Units Investigation

LD2902043192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian GMT 21 Feb 92

[Text] Andrey Dunayev, Russian deputy internal affairs minister, has stated that the guilt of Vilnius and Riga Special Purpose Militia Detachment [OMON] units can only be determined by a court.

As we know, Lithuanian law protection officials have officially announced that Riga OMON members, assisted by Vilnius Black Berets, carried out the cruel murders of Lithuanian officials at the Medininkai Border Control Post last summer.

Dunayev, Russian deputy minister of internal affairs, believes that it is possible to decide matters concerning these and other OMON actions only after a joint investigation by Russia and the Baltic states, in which Riga and Vilnius OMON soliders would themselves take part.

According to the Baltic News Service, replying to a question as to the current whereabouts of Riga and Vilnius OMON heads, Ceslovas Mlinnik and Boleslovas Makutinovicius, the deputy minister stated that no one was looking for them. According to him, he had not issued such an order, as the person responsible for searches.

Head of Delegation to UN Appointed

LD0403194992 Moscow TASS in English 1857 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 4 TASS—Former dissident Sergey Kovalev was appointed on Wednesday [4 March] head of the Russian delegation at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, an official source told ITAR-TASS.

Kovalev, a human rights activist who spent a third of his life in prisons and camps, currently holds the post of Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

St. Petersburg Receives Aid From Vietnam

MK0403094792 St. Petersburg Teleradiokompaniya Peterburg Television Network in Russian 1610 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the "Telestantsiya Fakt" newscast]

[Text] The latest consignment of humanitarian aid has been dispatched to St. Petersburg. This time the dispatcher was Ho Chi Minh City and we will receive 100 tonnes of rice, 11 tonnes of tea, 2 tons of vermicelli, and 2,000 casual jackets and pullovers.

Rostov To Monitor Distribution of German Aid

PM0403125192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 29 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Report by A. Abramenko and V. Yablokov from Rostov-na-Donu]

[Text] Cordial greetings in the shape of several tonnes of humanitarian aid have arrived in Rostov-na-Donu from Dortmund. The noble residents of Rostov-na-Donu's German twin-city have sent the aid despite the fact that their previous offerings were treated carelessly, to say the least. The appropriate organs are now investigating why some of the food and medicines ended up in commercial stores and the distributors' refrigerators instead of reaching the needy.

As for the latest batch of aid, we were reassured that a special commission is now supervising its distribution. Perhaps this commission will be able to clarify whether the addressees of the 400 or so personal packages which arrived in the shipment comprise people in official positions who cannot plead extreme need.

Iranian Condemnation of U.S. Criticized

NC0503150192 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Sergey Viktorov commentary]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said he was apprehensive about the flurry of U.S. diplomatic activity in the former Soviet Central Asian republics. In his Tehran seminar speech on issues relating to the former Soviet Union, he accused the United States of trying to use the situation to infiltrate, economically and politically, Central Asia's Muslim-inhabited countries. [passage omitted]

Iran is close to the nascent Central Asian republics and, naturally, it cannot afford to remain indifferent to regional trends. Foreign Minister Velayati said the region's people have common roots and religious and cultural traditions, which is true. It is impossible not to comprehend Iran's desire to cooperate further with the Central Asian countries, especially since Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abbas Maleki said in a REUTER interview that his country is only interested in forging economic relations and strengthening its stability and the security of its borders. The Central Asian countries also stand to benefit in this way.

One remark by Dr. Velayati in his Tehran seminar speech is amazing. Vehemently criticizing the United States for seeking to extend its influence in Central Asia, he described this as a U.S. attempt to fill the current vacuum. You cannot agree with this claim. Can you call four sovereign countries, each with its own distinctive establishment and interests, and all striving for their peoples' prosperity, a vacuum?

I do not think Tashkent, Ashkhabad, Dushanbe, and Bishkek consider themselves to be in a vacuum without air! If we accept Dr. Velayati's terminology it can be (?assumed) the vacuum has been filled. If it is not filled by Washington, something the minister opposes, which country will fill it? Will it be Islamabad, Ankara, Moscow, or Tehran itself?

Incidentally, the West, including the United States, has accused Iran of trying. If other countries are to fill this vacuum, then it should be assumed that the Central Asian peoples will, so to say, be totally ignored. This will mean they have been easily (?influenced) and are being (?guided by others).

This is not the case. The Central Asian nations are heirs to a vast, ancient culture and I think they can decide their own ideologies and actions.

U.S. Officials Among First To Visit Saratov

PM0403134392 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Mar 92 First Edition p 4

[Oleg Zlobin report: "All Flags Come To Visit Us"]

[Text] Saratov—The ink is not yet dry on the decree declaring Saratov an "open city," and the first eminent guest has already arrived in the forbidden capital of the Volga region—a representative of U.S. governmental circles, U.S. assistant special envoy Peter Hauslohner. He visited the city's largest, only recently "top secret" defense plants. Today their collectives, which consist of many thousands of workers, are undergoing very acute problems in connection with the curtailment of military orders. The American guest tried to ascertain to what extent investments are now possible by large U.S. companies in the state sector of industry in the Volga region, in particular for joint work in the sphere of conversion. It is possible that representatives of seven major U.S. firms will come to Saratov as early as March for more concrete talks.

U.S. Armed Forces experts have also been assiduously visiting the banks of the Volga. They were monitoring fulfillment of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles. I was told in Volga-Urals Military District that the Americans left satisfied with the visit: No violations of the terms of the treaty were discovered.

The journalistic fraternity has also descended on Saratov. The 400-year-old city, as Western colleagues recognize, is interesting in that unlike other cities of the Volga region it was not destroyed by bombing during the war and has kept its original character from the "mercantile" renaissance. It is good that this ancient mercantile streak is finally awakening today in the people of the Volga themselves. Can the province make full use of the opportunity that has been presented?

Commentary on Russian, U.S. Navy Maneuvering

LD0503195892 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2039 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Military Observer Aleksandr Yakovlev commentary]

[Text] The recent collision between atomic submarines of the U.S. and Russian naval formations at the entrance to Kola Bay in the Barents Sea was accidental, of course, but if no conclusions are drawn it may not be the last one. That is military observer Aleksandr Yakovlev's opinion. While politicians are negotiating to organize a safer world, the military are carrying out their prescribed tasks—they perform reconnaissance operations, ensure operational combat readiness and conduct exercises. Although the ships of the CIS navy are mainly at their bases at present—individual ships still go to the areas where formerly there had been intensive military service. For instance, the antisubmarine ships (?Serp) and "Bezukoriznenny" recently spent two weeks in the Mediterranean. The U.S. Naval Command even proposed to carry out a joint exercise with these ships—an event without precedent in our relationship. On the whole, the Russian navy follows the decisions of the authorities, including the unilateral disarmament initiatives, and masters the defensive military doctrine, while the naval forces of the U.S. and other NATO countries continue to follow the principles of the frontlines doctrine, which envisages actions against the CIS naval forces near their bases.

The next exercise under the code name "Teamwork 92" will be carried out in the North-East Atlantic and in the North of Europe from 6 to 25 March. Up to 170 ships, about 300 planes, and land forces will take part in it. The number of exercise participants as compared to the peak period of military confrontation between East and West has been reduced by 20 percent. However, the direction of the exercises against Russia is evident. In the latest preparations for the exercises the activization of the naval reconnaissance right near our shores can be noted. We know the result—the collision of Russian and American submarines at the entrance to the Kola Bay of the Barents Sea. Luckily a tragedy, which could only compare with the Chernobyl events, did not occur. One should remark that Russian professionals preserve a calm attitude in respect to the exercises and reconnaissance activities of the NATO naval forces. This is what Vladimir Pankov, captain first rank, the chief naval specialist on international laws says on this account: Any navy has the possibility of planning operations in peacetime and there are no contradictions to, and divergence from, what the international naval and international law tells us today. The freedom of navigation was and is basic for the activity of navies, no matter whether merchant or military. As to the new political realities, I believe it would now be possible to revise the United States plans in respect to us, a state that today appears in a new role, but unfortunately their naval actions show no such changes.

The men of the Russian Navy are more concerned with the difference of opinions of Russia and United States as to the order of measuring the width of the territorial waters of our states and the readiness of the U.S. Navy to prove that they are right by action. Four years ago, on the 12 February 1988, this already led to the clash of Soviet and American warships in the Black Sea. An attempt was made in 1990 to realize a rapprochement of the positions of our countries on this issue. The talks that were started were not continued, and if they are not resumed and the problem not solved the incident of the collision between the Soviet and the American atomic vessels might not be the last one.

Head of Negotiations With Latvia Appointed

OW0503183592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin has appointed a Foreign Ministry official, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Sergey Zotov, leader of the Russian delegation at the Russian-Latvian intergovernment negotiations. In the past Zotov has taken part in various meetings and negotiations within the CSCE framework in various European capitals.

Zotov has told our correspondent that the negotiations will involve a whole range of issues—political, military, economic, social etc.

In his opinion the Russian-Latvian talks "should fit in with measures to ensure security and trust in Europe". Russia, he said, wished to have "equal, good-neighbourly, mutually beneficial relations with Latvia based on international standards."

Federation Affairs

Poltoranin on Measures To Help Kuzbass Miners

LD0503152192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] I have just been brought additional material on the report from the Kuzbass, a TASS report: Providing Kuzbass (?with) available....[changes thought] Supplying the large miners' region with foodstuffs, in particular sugar—these questions were discussed during today's

meeting of leaders of the Russian Government—Gennadiy Burbulis, Yegor Gaydar, and Mikhail Poltoranin, with representatives of Kuzbass workers' committees and the head of the Kemerovo administration.

As Mikhail Poltoranin stated after the meeting, the government is devoting special attention to such workers' regions as Vorkuta, Kuzbass, Tyumen. However, the tactics of taking the government by the throat, which trade union functionaries are beginning to use, he stressed, are unsuitable, since the executive authorities should not operate in fire-brigade conditions. In connection with persistent demands by the representatives of the intersectoral strike committee in the Kuzbass for the immediate arrival in the region of a government commission headed by Gennadiy Burbulis, it was noted at the meeting that to date there is no need for such a trip, for the problems of the miners' region are being resolved gradually. Yegor Gaydar is looking into possibilities for providing Kuzbass with cash, its requirement today comprising 3.5 billion rubles. [passage indistinct] The government is conducting work on a draft presidential decree on creating a currency reserve and establishing a free economic zone in the Kuzbass. All of these measures should promote the stabilization. [passage indistinct]

Committee Announces Warning Strike

LD0503141392 Moscow TASS in English 1330 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Shalakin]

[Text] Kemerovo March 5 TASS—The coordinating council of Kuzbass strike committees and trade union leaders of the Kemerovo region announced on Thursday [5 March] a warning strike after it became known that a governmental commission, headed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhayl Poltoranin, would not arrive today to the coal-mining centre in western Siberia.

"Various branches of industry will strike in turn till March 10, and a general strike will begin after that", Gennadiy Mikhaylets, chairman of the coordinating council of the strike committees, told TASS.

"Miners support us. Work stalled on many enterprises today. The main problem is that free market prices on fuel which the government plans to introduce will bring the coal mines to a standstill", Mikhaylets fears.

Rutskoy Comments on Agrarian, Economic Reform

LD0603112792 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in Russian 1212 GMT 3 Mar 92

["Exclusive" interview on economic reform and problems of agriculture with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy by Radio Moscow correspondent Galina Gruzyeva, place and date not given; Gruzyeva's remarks are superimposed by unidentified narrator—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Now we have an interview with the vice president of Russia. Rather than changing his views a real politician changes the situation—and always for the better. That is Aleksandr Rutskoy's motto. It seems that the time has now come for him to take an active part in such changes. I remind you that after being almost completely sidelined at the end of last year, the vice president undertook a number of tours of the republic, during which he sharply criticized the measures being taken by the Russian Government to reform the economy.

President Boris Yeltsin asked Rutskoy to take charge of Russia's agrarian sector, a sector which constantly underperforms. The vice president was unlikely to turn down such a request. He said that he has always supported the president and his reform policy, and that is precisely what he intends to go on doing. However, the vice president stressed that he reserves the right to express constructive criticism of the Russian Government. Aleksandr Rutskoy was not slow to confirm this intention a few days later when he addressed the official launch of the Russian Economic Academy, and said that the present government has brought Russia's economy to a sorry pass.

Galina Gruzyeva, a correspondent for Moscow Radio, was given an exclusive interview by the vice president:

[Rutskoy] I deeply regret that I did not graduate from this higher education establishment. But I have kept in close touch with 12 of its teachers. So, I can talk about economic problems, specifically the ones covered by the decree which the president will, I believe, sign shortly, namely agro-industrial and land reform. I do not have a higher education. But I received the best education of all—education of a different kind, so to speak. Therefore, I have already spent half a year being prepared, as it were. I can argue with anyone you like, on any subject, thanks to the professors and teachers at the academy, and I can do so today, because we must now move on from talk to specific action.

Nine months have passed since the president was elected, and what have we achieved?

[Narrator] What problems does the vice president consider to be the most important at the moment?

[Rutskoy] The most important problem is the problem of competence. The institutes have done a massive amount of work, especially on reform. But none of this is being applied or directly implemented—it is not even receiving any attention. I have always said that the individual capable of implementing this or that reform on his own has not yet been born. As a rule reform is implemented by a public or political movement, with direct support in the form of ideological, humanitarian, economic, and technical know-how.

We have already entered a market, but we have entered it in a chaotic fashion, without any underlying principles, let us say. Why? Because our pensioners and

children have been placed in a very difficult situation, if only because of the prices for food, clothing, and everything else that they are now being asked to pay. After all, we did not have to get into this tailspin.

I made some proposals. I discussed my proposals for economic reform with a number of scientists and with a number of comrades. We are already finalizing our calculations—we planned to do a stocktake of all of our fixed assets, all of Russia's fixed assets, all of them. The idea is for the state to issue shares in all of this. These would be distributed free of charge to the disabled, to war and labor veterans, to children in an appropriate fashion, and to pensioners. The remaining shares would be sold. The idea is that the reforms—privatization, land reform, financial reform, and convertibility of the ruble—should proceed simultaneously.

So you can see what would happen. We would have this stocktaking, then the issue of securities to the value of the fixed assets, and then the sale of securities. This would raise trillions. In other words, the ruble would already be reinforced. The proceeds from the sale of these securities would go to the bank and then the monetary units involved would be withdrawn. New money would then be issued. In other words, we would accomplish this reform in 18 months.

These are not actually my ideas. They belong to a group of scientists who are working with me. But if we do not adopt these suggestions within the next two months it will already be too late. We will already be in a tailspin from which it will be difficult to recover. If we do adopt them, then it is realistic to assume that sometime in the middle of 1993 we will have completed this cycle of reforms, stabilized the situation, and be ready to move on.

Can a man live without a cardiovascular system? I do not think so. Finance is the state's cardiovascular system. Without a reform of our finances, without privatization, without a stocktake, without an assets sale, without defining our assets, without legal protection for property, we won't get anywhere. Every one must do his utmost to prevent Russia disintegrating. This would be the worst disaster, the worst one.

[Narrator] That is the view of Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. In the sphere of agriculture, Rutskoy believes that the country's hard currency reserves should not be wasted on investment in Canadian, American, and German farms. The country has its own stocks of grain. It would be better to use the same hard currency to purchase bread grain from our own farmers, especially as we would not then have to shell out hard currency for transportation costs. A ton of grain would cost considerably less if that course was adopted, Aleksandr Rutskoy believes.

The vice president also believes that peasant farms—both collective and privately owned ones—must become co-owners of all enterprises in the agro-industrial complex, including processing enterprises and haulage concerns. He proposes that all loss-making farms should be wound up as quickly as possible so that the land can be given to those who really do want to be involved in agricultural production. Aleksandr Rutskoy proposes that Selkhoztekhnika's [former USSR agency for the supply of agricultural machinery] manufacturing enterprises should be made to compete against imported farm machinery and equipment which would be brought in for sale to farmers in Russia.

Foreign Partners Will Help Finance

OW0503182592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy who had been charged with the coordination of land reforms said Thursday [5 March] in Moscow at his meeting with Russian MPs [Members of Parliament] representing the agro-industrial complex that due to the lack of budget allocations a land reform promotion fund is to be set up which will be financed by the Bank of London, the Deutsche Bank and other foreign partners.

He stressed that 96 enterprises of the military-industrial complex formed an agricultural corporation. Plants have already been designed, including mobile ones, to process meat, milk, vegetables and fruit. However, a serial production of such plants cannot begin unless necessary funding is provided. For much the same reason, rapid housing construction technology for the countryside cannot be made use of although Western partners are willing to provide it.

Military units will be used to construct agro-industrial complexes, Rutskoy said. According to the Russian vice president, once the work is over, the military units will be disbanded and those who wish it will be given an opportunity to become farmers.

Komov Says Number of Private Farms To Grow

LD0503184292 Moscow TASS in English 1303 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow March 5 TASS—Not less than one third of the 212 million hectares of farm land in Russia will become private this year, according to Nikolay Komov, chairman of the committee on land reform and resources at the Russian Government. The number of private farms in the country will grow from the present-day 14 thousand to 50,000, he said at a news conference on Thursday [5 March].

Private farmers have at their disposal 3.1 million hectares of farm land, 4.5 million hectares are land plots of

city residents, while 3 million hectares—of rural residents, he disclosed. The rest of the farm land belongs to state and collective farms.

Would-be farmers still face serious problems in getting land. "Knots are yet to cut" in giving land plots to city residents, Komov said.

The governmental reforms are not intended to ruin strong and profitable state and collective farms, he added.

Only the loss-making ones would be sold out, according to governmental plans.

Despite the predicted large-scale privatisation of land in the country, Komov believes private farmers will produce this year only 2-3 percent of the total agricultural yield in Russia. This can be explained by a drastic lack of machinery and other equipment because of immense prices on them. [Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1358 GMT on 5 March in a similar report adds: "Nikolay Komov said that in line with the presidential decree, about 2 million hectares of land in the Saratov and Volgagrad regions will be placed at the disposal of Russia's ethnic Germans. The project has been coordinated with the local authorities and population. 'No problems are likely to arise in this connection.'"]

Demonstrators Try to Burn Yeltsin Effigy

OW0503194692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moscow police broke up antigovernment acts on Pushkin Square Thursday [5 March] evening by a group of activists from "Vozrozhdeniye" headed by Valery Skurlatov. They gathered around the statue of Pushkin with banners criticizing the governments of Russia and Moscow and planned to burn an effigy of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

An "Interfax" correspondent reports that police first warned the demonstrators that city administration had permitted them to gather at the entrance to Gorkiy Park. Police then confiscated the effigy and arrested several demonstrators.

Zavidiya Begins Presidential Election Campaign

LD0503000492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent S. Shatunov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Andrey Zavidiya, former candidate for vice president in Zhirinovskiy's team, and his supporters held a news conference in the library named after the 50th anniversary of the Komsomol where the intention was stated to begin a struggle for nominating Andrey Zavidiya for the post of Russian president. A program statement was read which includes the demand to introduce a state of emergency in the country and to found a new Union to replace the old one:

[Begin recording unidentified speaker] To demand all-union elections of the USSR president and people's deputies at all levels. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Yes, you heard right: The president of the USSR. According to the candidate, his program enjoys great popularity among the people:

[Begin recording unidentified speaker] Almost all of these demands are supported by a majority of patriotic parties, movements and by the unions. [end recording]

The first action in the preelection struggle will be the following:

[Begin Zavidiya recording] Activization of activity, which undoubtedly means only by legal means. For example, we are quite capable of bringing a million people to a demonstration planned for mid-March in Moscow. [end recording]

According to the candidate, in the event of his victory Mr. Zhirinovskiy will also have something to do:

[Begin Zavidiya recording] We have agreed with him that he will be the foreign minister—if this happens. [end recording] [video shows news conference, Zavidiya seated with three other people]

Court To Examine Tatarstan Referendum

OW0503182692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 12 Russia's Constitutional Court is going to examine the decision of the Tatar parliament to hold a self-determination referendum in the republic and decide if it corresponds to the Russian Constitution. Some of the court members believe this is a matter which actually affects the future of Russia. They also regard the formulation of the question to be answered during the referendum as illegitimate for it virtually contains three questions at the same time.

Some of the court members have arrived in Kazan in order to investigate the matter on the spot.

Today (March 5) the Russian parliament decided to ask the Constitutional Court to check if the decision on referendum corresponded to the Constitution and demand that Tatarstan suspend it since the holding of such a referendum "might do incorrigible harm to the peoples of the Russian Federation and to its territorial integrity."

New Fund To Work for Civilization 'Salvation'

OW0403185792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Former Soviet foreign minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh has been elected head of the Fund for the Safe Development of the Civilization, a new public organization registered with the Russian justice ministry a few days ago.

The new fund intends to work for the involvement of organizations, specialists and entrepreneurs in the international movement for the salvation of human civilizations, and spread the principles of security to all spheres of human activity.

The fund has employed 130 scientists inside and outside the Commonwealth of Independent States to analyse various projects and issue practical recommendations. Its scientific council has accepted for scrutiny six programs, the most important ones dealing with ecology, the disposal of hazardous wastes, and the scrapping of chemical and nuclear weapons.

Contact telephones: (095) 955-2801 and 955-2819.

Draft Law Encourages Activities of Parties

PM0503131592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Mar 92 First Edition p 3

[Interview with Sagadat Khabirov, head of group of experts for the drafting of the Russian law on parties, by Yuriy Petrovskiy; place and date of interview not given: "Into Civilized Legal Channel"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] In foreign countries there are over 100 fundamental normative acts on parties in operation, noted Sagadat Khabirov, chief of a sector of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet committee for the mass media, relations with public organizations and citizens' mass movements, and the study of public opinion, who heads a group of experts for the drafting of a Russian law on parties. Until recently in Soviet history there was nothing even close in spirit to these foreign analogues.

[Petrovskiy] Sagadat Safinovich, the union law on public associations was after all adopted. And as of today over 650 such associations have been registered at the Russian Ministry of Justice...

[Khabirov] That is precisely the point, today political parties are registered virtually on a par with dog breeders' associations. The union law on public associations draws virtually no legal distinction between, for instance, charitable foundations, trade unions, and political parties. Yet after all charitable foundations in principle link not people but capital. Trade unions should primarily be geared toward labor relations and social partnership. I assert this with full responsibility since we have processed a colossal amount of material and tried to consider not only Western but also Eastern material—from Germany to Japan.

Our committee, which also embarked over a year ago on preparation of a law on public associations, has abandoned this approach. A repetition of the errors of our union colleagues would only complicate matters. We have reached the conviction that a package of laws is needed: on freedom of unions (which would contain general provisions on nonstate formations: procedure for their creation, registration, and banning if they violate the constitution or existing legislation, and so forth), on trade unions, on political parties, on noncommercial and charitable activity...

[Petrovskiy] As the leader of the group of experts, what basic elements would you like to highlight in the draft law on parties?

[Khabirov] In general outline they can be designated as follows. What actually is a political party? What are the state's mutual relations with the parties? What should be the procedure for the latter's creation? Who can join them? Here there are also problems connected with parliamentary activity (for instance, the rights and duties of parliamentary factions which, as is well known, are usually formed on a party basis), with forms of parties' participation in elections, with their state financing, and a number of other avenues.

There are also questions on which disputes are inevitable both inside parliament and in broad public circles. For instance, take the thesis on the state financing of political parties. A year ago the majority of parliamentarians did not even want to hear of it. Yet in almost all countries the state financing of political parties is implemented with firm democratic traditions. That includes both countries like France and Britain and developing countries like Tunisia.

There is a dual point to their financing. First of all civil initiative in the political sphere is being subsidized and thus encouraged by the state. It is also a guarantee against the buying of power. Mankind has invented no better medicine here.

The financing of parties in my view is an important condition for the implementation of political equality. I am in favor of parties being allocated some returnable loan for elections. According to the results of the elections specific parties would also be allocated funds—depending on the number of deputies elected from a given public association or the number of votes cast for that party. If it has gained supremacy then the funds are larger. (Naturally they must go on internal party needs and not on buying arms or imported uniforms for functionaries!) And a lesser success means a lesser sum. And if a party has not won even 5 percent of the votes then in my opinion the state should refuse it any financial support.

It seems to me that parliamentarians are also increasingly aware of the advantages provided by state financing of parties. At least they are now treating the subject calmly although, I repeat, this subject will probably give rise to debate.

[Petrovskiy] And how did the parties themselves receive the draft law? Did their representatives take part in the discussion?

[Khabirov] They did, and quite actively. After all, the parties are interested in the state recognizing at least the actual fact of their existence. It is true that so far the parties are seeking primarily to consolidate their rights, forgetting their duties, but we shall hope that this is a disease of growth that will pass.

What is needed is a balance between the interests of the state, the parties, and the individual. Thus, according to the draft law which has been prepared, a party can be banned through the court if it resorts to violent methods, takes steps to overthrow the constitutional system or to alter the social structure or territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, inflames racial, national, social, or other hatred, or harms the environment, and so forth.

[Petrovskiy] And are their candidates for a ban?

[Khabirov] It is an old and widespread mistake to try to "abolish" out of hand a phenomenon which exists in real life. You only have to take the "Pamyat" society, which has long been the talk of the town. A mass of people are dissatisfied with its existence. But it cannot be denied that it has supporters and a certain base. By banning it, will we eliminate manifestations of chauvinism? Whether we want it or not, a person cannot be forced to think differently. And such people should also have the right to unite although exclusively on a legal basis and to operate on the same basis. Society thus compels them to "play by its rules" and not to transgress certain limits.

All parties, and primarily those which hold extreme positions, should realize that if they violate the law they can be pursued by the state. And they bear responsibility for the statements and specific actions of their leaders and rank and file members and sections. By undergoing official registration the parties receive the opportunity to express and defend their opinion. At the same time nothing prevents us literally the day after registration from taking legal proceedings against a violator if it violates its own statute or transgresses the law.

[Petrovskiy] Understandably, both the parties and the state need a law. But why does the ordinary citizen, the man in the street, need it? After all, you come across the opinion that we could live without parties at all...

[Khabirov] The alleged nonparty nature of a society is no more than a myth. Political parties by their nature are designed to express the interests of various social strata and groups. Our changing society is now still in a situation which the traditionally democratic societies would assess as a profound parliamentary and political crisis. Power as such is reminiscent of a chorus of nightingales with surprisingly different voices. In parliament there is a mass of "soloists," each "in charge of his own party" and paying scant attention to the others. And all this instead of just a few large blocs and factions based on political parties and through them on the voters.

At a congress on people's deputy once said: "How much time can we spend dealing with politics? Let's get down to business." And the auditorium was confused. Anywhere in the West his political career would have ended immediately after such a statement. Because in the West it is only professionals, very well trained professionals who have withstood a tough competitive struggle, who operate in that sphere. In making high demands on them society is protected twice over from opportunists in this field—by internal party selection and by nationwide elections. In our country the first barrier is almost absent. Within the framework of their ideology parties should have integral programs which ensure their success or failure at elections.

I believe we cannot regard it as normal that with the very powerful politicization of society today no trend can be observed toward the numerical growth of political organizations. Parties will never be up to the tasks which they are essentially obliged to resolve. In this situation political interest may go beyond the borders of the civilized solution of conflicts, that is, compromise or if you like consensus. Such an eruption of political interest by uncivilized methods took place during the August putsch. That is why at turning points in society's life it is particularly important to encourage the activity of political parties, to put them in a normal state, which is one of the aims of the draft law which we have elaborated.

White House Officials Approve

LD0503230292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent V. Budnikov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The draft law on political parties was greeted by those gathered in the White House with approval. The party leaders were particularly happy about the fact that parties, depending on their election results, will receive state subsidies; however, many are happy for no good reason since it is hardly likely that they will scrape together the one percent of the vote required for this. On the other hand, a prohibition on accepting donations from the territory of a foreign state did not give rise to any particular exhilaration, especially among the republicans. One would imagine that the bolsheviks, who in their time have partaken of the munificence of the West, would have sympathized with them. Incidentally, if the draft becomes law, then communist hopes of a revival will be struck down since it proscribes the propaganda of class and social differences.

Democratic Party Opposes 'Mythical' Treaty

OW0503182792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Political Council of the Russian Democratic Party urged Russian parliamentarians to resist attempts to replace the adoption of a new constitution at the upcoming parliament session with the passage of a "mythical federative treaty."

These attempts, says the Political Council's statement issued Thursday [5 March], are being made by "nationalistic and separatist forces which realize that a new constitution, if passed, can foil their plans to break up Russia. [quotation mark as received] According to the document architects, the federative treaty "will turn Russia into a small CIS and bury hopes for any economic transformations."

"In case the Supreme Soviet and the Congress of People's Deputies move to dismember Russia, the Russian Democratic Party reserves a right to demand their dissolution," says the statement.

'Opposition' Movement Supports Reforms

PM0403143092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Gennadiy Shipitko: "Government Needs Support"]

[Text] Opposition to economic reforms is growing; that opinion was reached by the participants in the All-Russian Practical Conference of Social Committees for Russian Reforms. In a number of regions the local organs are simply ignoring presidential decrees and government resolutions.

The Social Committee for Russian Reforms was founded in December last year. It brings together representatives of Democratic Russia, the Union of Labor Collectives, independent trade unions, entrepreneurs, and national democratic and social movements and parties. Now local branches of the committee have been set up in more than half the krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations of Russia. This social movement, defining itself as a democratic opposition, nonetheless supports the government's actions at the present stage of economic reforms.

In the decision adopted, the conference participants put a proposal to the president that he relieve of their posts a number of administration heads who, in their opinion, are working against government decisions. In the conditions of political confrontation there is also a need for a decree banning the occupation of leadership posts by former leaders of party organs and those who did not leave the CPSU after 20 August 1991.

At the end of March it is proposed to convene a congress of all Russia's public democratic organizations.

'Shadow Cabinet' Discusses Security Matters

LD0503121192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] There were hearings today at the White House by the shadow cabinet of radical democrats on national security problems.

[Correspondent S. Suntsov] Today's hearings were devoted to the concept of national security. Foreign policy and military reform documents were prepared for the Russian Congress of People's Deputies. To prevent the iron curtain from shifting from Eastern Europe to the CIS—that is how a key aspect of Russian foreign policy is defined by Aleksandr Nikitin, a member of the shadow cabinet. It is precisely the Commonwealth of the states of the former USSR that must be an instrument in resolving problems, including those confronting Russia.

General Vladimirov, the shadow cabinet's defense minister, emphasized that the time had come to move away from the balance of forces and interests toward a higher stage—direct cooperation in the security sphere. The basic version of a model has been proposed—a CIS security system integrated into the NATO security system to make a single Eurasian system. Touching on the reform of the CIS Armed Forces, Gen. Vladimirov stressed that the Armed Forces did not need reforming. A plan was put forward for creating Russian forces numbering about 1 million men on a professional basis before the year 2000. Nuclear forces are seen as part of the strategic stability forces of the other nuclear powers.

Government Establishes Crisis Analysis Council

OW0503134092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1034 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Under a decree of the Russian president a council for analyzing critical situation and drafting government resolutions has been set up under the government. It will be a consultative body. Academician Nikita Moiseyev is appointed the chairman of the 12-member council. The other members include the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences Yuri Osipov, economist Dr. Stanislav Shatalin, the director of the Philosophy Institute Vyacheslav Stepin and the director of the Economic Forecasting Institute Yuri Yaremenko.

USSR Foreign Ministry Dismantling Complete

LD0603071992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] In accordance with the Russian president's decree the transitional period for abolishing the former USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs is now complete. (Valeriy Kinyaikin), head of the personnel department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, stated this in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He said that in

essence the radical reconstruction of the ministry is only beginning. The central apparatus of the ministry will employ 3,000 people. From now on, the ministry will simply have a department for relations with the CIS as a whole. It is expected that overseas personnel will be cut back nearly by one-third. Nearly 10 embassies and 14 consulates in Asian, African, and Latin American countries will be closed.

Western Detectives To Trace Party Accounts

LD0503182592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Russian Government experts have estimated that between 7 and 25 billion dollars have been illegally remitted from this country to banks of other countries. These are the funds appropriated by the former Soviet Communist Party as well as hard currency accounts of shady dealers. The Russian Government has warned that before the 15th of this month all the owners of these secret accounts should give themselves up to the Russian authorities. Later, at the suggestion of the Russian Government, a famous Western detective firm (?Cole) Associates will start looking for the account keepers. In the past this firm traced the money hidden by dictators Marcos, Duvalier Junior and Saddam Husayn.

Nuclear Energy Minister Mikhailov Appointed

PM0603095592 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Mar 92 p 1

[Interview with Professor V. Mikhailov, Russian nuclear energy minister, by Anatoliy Pokrovskiy; place and date not given: "Not a Single Defense Worker Has Gone Abroad, Claims Prof. V. Mikhailov, Newly Appointed Russian Federation Nuclear Energy Minister"—first paragraph is biographical introduction]

[Text] The new minister was born in 1934 and graduated with distinction from the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute, although he had to contend with such incisive examiners as Academician L.D. Landau. In 1957 he was "selected," as he puts it himself, by Academician Ya.B. Zeldovich to work in Arzamas-16. He used the experience gained thereby for his postgraduate work to specialize in theoretical and nuclear physics. He was in charge of nuclear weapons questions in the former USSR Ministry of Atomic Power Engineering and Industry but did not sever ties with his alma mater, where he heads a department. He was appointed a minister following B.N. Yeltsin's visit to Arzamas-16. This visit was the subject of our conversation.

[Pokrovskiy] Viktor Nikitovich, both here and abroad there are a considerable number of rumors and false rumors about the "nuclear brain drain" and the dissipation of nuclear weapons associated with it.

[Mikhailov] In fact not a single, I stress not a single, specialist working in the nuclear weapons sector has gone abroad. True, nuclear physics is quite a wide branch of knowledge and possibly some nuclear workers working in other sectors have headed abroad. But the sphere of scientific exchanges is, as they say, a different kettle of fish. But as regards "rumors and false rumors," it is hard to say what has prompted them more—whether it is sympathy for a number of theoretical and experimental physicists who really find themselves in a complex situation, or the desire of our ill-wishers within the country and the West to cause distrust of our nuclear weapons and power complexes.

[Pokrovskiy] In short, a difficult situation has developed and this is evidently what prompted B.N. Yeltsin's visit to Arzamas-16.

[Mikhailov] Let me give my main impression straightaway—the trip, by all accounts, was well thought out and prepared. It was felt that Boris Nikolayevich is getting a good orientation in both the scientific and the everyday problems of the "closed" city and its inhabitants. True, the meetings and conversations overran somewhat contrary to the initial program, but it must be borne in mind that scientists and designers from other centers of ours were participating in them.

[Pokrovskiy] In brief, what was agreed during the visit?

[Mikhailov] On the one hand support from the Russian Government was promised, and on the other it was recommended that we learn to pay our own way and become more actively involved in market relations. We acquainted the president with our conversion programs package, under which we are counting on attracting domestic and foreign investments on the basis of mutual advantage. We have great potential in the most diverse sectors of technology—lasers, directed explosions, new materials, the utilization of ultrapowerful magnetic fields, and so on. I will not list everything, all I will say is that the well known ophthalmologist Prof. S. Fedorov, for whom we manufacture instruments for eye operations, has dubbed our specialists "eggheads" because they are so quick to grasp the essence of even unfamiliar problems and find complex solutions to them.

[Pokrovskiy] I have long known from my work that nuclear workers have plenty of promising ideas. But can they find customers for them?

[Mikhailov] You have touched a sore point. Domestic entrepreneurs have still not gotten used to allocating resources for research and development work, but this is our institutes' main output. The majority want to deal with finished output. The setting up of a Russian Nuclear Center, which was decided during the visit, will help here. It will carry out this research.

We have, for example, interesting products in the sphere of fiber-optics technology for all types of communications, including high-quality television, telephone services installation, and a computer network. There are already customers for them. Generally it must be understood that there is no movement forward without scientific and technical progress. Incidentally, one-third of

our capacities are already working on consumer goods production, and conversion activity will increase.

[Pokrovskiy] What other tasks does the new center face?

[Mikhailov] Of course, priority tasks include the problems concerning the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons technology, the protecting of nuclear materials, and the destruction of nuclear weapons. We take all this extremely seriously. But that, as they say, is a subject in itself.

[Pokrovskiy] Thank you for the conversation and I am glad of the opportunity of being one of the first to congratulate you on your high appointment.

Union of Reserve Officers Registered

MK0503074292 Moscow Teleradioveshchatelnaya Kompaniya Moskva Television in Russian 1545 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Moskovskiy Teletayp" newscast]

[Text] The Russian Federation Ministry of Justice has registered the Russian [Rossiyskiy] Union of Reserve Officers. This patriotic organization, which today unites about 100,000 retired and reserve officers, generals, and admirals, now has real opportunities for fruitful work.

Delays Encountered in Unloading Cars of Food

PM0403145392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Irina Taburyanskaya: "There Is No Food, but Freight Cars Loaded With Food Are Standing Idle"]

[Text] Just as before, the topic of food is extremely urgent. Alarm signals about empty shelves, stoppages at bakeries, and enormous lines in the stores are sounding now in one city, now in another.

Against this background, information about the situation regarding the unloading of food in the Russian Federation seems more than strange. According to information provided by the Russian Ministry of Railways, on average 3,400 freight cars containing vital foodstuffs remained unloaded every day in February. On 24 February a mere 2,043 out of 3,764 grain carriers were unloaded. In Leningrad Oblast 284 grain wagons remained "on the tracks," in Chelyabinsk Oblast the figure was 203, in Maritime Kray 107, and in Moscow and Moscow Oblast 100.

The picture is no brighter as regards other products. Since 4 February, 86 cars containing food for "Norilltorg" have been standing in Murmansk. Since 27 December last year, 22 cars carrying tobacco for the Uritskiy Factory and four for the Clara Tsetkin Factory have been languishing at Leningrad's Warsaw Station. On 9 February four cars containing meat arrived in Surgut (the recipient is "Zapsibstroy"), and since that time nobody has had anything to do with them. But the recipients on the Baykal-Amur Railroad may have set the record for sluggishness.

These are sad facts, but unfortunately they are not new. Only before recipients named the low capacity of refrigeration plants and depots, the lack of unloading equipment, and the erratic delivery of produce by transporters as reasons for their sluggishness.

Now the situation on the railroads has changed. The volume of transportation has fallen off, and it would simply be a sin to talk of a freight surplus. The problem lies not in the quantity of freight but in the style and methods of work.

Increased Gold Output Linked to Foregin Firms

LD0503180192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1200 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Russia intends to increase the output of gold by granting concessions to foreign firms. This would apply to some gold deposits in Siberia and the Far East. The idea of forming an international pool is (?set) to be discussed in Moscow. Readiness to join it has been expressed by the goldmining firms and banks of the United States, Canada and Great Britain. According to some estimates, they could invest no less than 1 billion dollars.

Independent Joint Stock News Agency Set Up

LD0503203792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2101 GMT 3 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Rossiyskoye Agentstvo Publitsistov joint stock company has been set up in Moscow. Sergey Frolov has the details:

[Frolov] Among its organizers are Georgiy Arbatov, Leonid Zhukovitskiy, Yuriy Koryakin, Galina Starovoytova, Yuriy Chernichenko, Andrey Nuykin, Vasiliy Selyunin, Gennadiy Lisichkin, and other well-known commentators on current affairs and also the editor of the weekly SOBESEDNIK.

The company will fulfill the role of news agency which considers itself independent of parties, movements, and organizations and it will acquire and diffuse objective information and will use social and political journalism by individual authors. It is planned to give a prompt analysis and a review of the economic and political situation both in Russia and in other CIS countries. [video shows Arbatov and Chernichenko among others seated around a table]

Supreme Soviet

Supreme Soviet Highlights for 5 Mar

LD0603000892

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1845 GMT on 5 March carries a 35-minute edition of its regularly scheduled "At the Russian Supreme Soviet" program, including recorded highlights of the Russian Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 5 March.

The program opens with deputies discussing and adopting the law on national security.

Supreme Arbitration Court Chairman Venyamin Yakovlev then comments on a draft Russian arbitration procedure code, noting that the law on the supreme arbitration court was adopted on 4 July 1991 and was put into force on 1 October 1991. He says that enterprises and businessmen badly need an arbitration system.

At 1849 GMT, deputies vote on and adopt the draft arbitration procedure code, with a 71.5 percent majority.

Deputies then elect the following as deputy chairmen of the Supreme Arbitration Court, with a 69.1 percent majority: Aleksandr Aliyevich Arefulin, Vasiliy Vladimirovich Tryashkin, and Vladimir Nikolayevich Tsaychev.

At 1850 GMT, deputies discuss Russian President Boris Yeltsin's appeal regarding the Supreme Soviet's repeated examination of the Russian law on kray and oblast soviets of people's deputies and kray and oblast administrations.

At 1851 GMT, Sergey Shakhray, a presidential representative and deputy chairman of the government, speaks on the law on kray and oblast administrations. He says that the concept and structure of this law are fully legal and reiterates Yeltsin's view on the matter.

At 1900 GMT, an unidentified deputy comments on the law on kray and oblast soviets and administrations.

At 190 GMT, the law is voted on and adopted, with a 56.8 percent majority.

Deputies then discuss and adopt an appeal to the Supreme Soviet, people, and president of the Republic of Tatarstan rejecting the planned Tatar referendum, with a 62.2 percent majority.

Deputies then discuss two appeals to the Constitutional Court, with Deputy Rumyantsev expressing his support for the appeals.

At 1918 GMT, deputies vote on and adopt the appeals, with a 70.7 percent majority.

Deputies then urge Chamber of Nationalities Chairman Abdulatipov to deliver a speech on television and radio explaining the appeal to the Tatar people and government.

At 1920 GMT, the program ends.

Federation Adopts National Security Law

LD0503135792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1130 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent Aleksandr Ruvinskiy on the Russian Supreme Soviet session in Moscow on 5 March, including recorded remarks by commentator Dmitriy Antonovich Volkogonov]

[Text] A plenary session of the Russian Supreme Soviet session took place in the building of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet on Krasnopresnenskaya Embankment today, after a 10-day break. First of all, as people's deputies had not gathered together for 10 days, a whole hour was spent on discussing the agenda for the current session. There were quite a few sore points. Specifically, deputies voiced concern in connection with possible events on 17 March, as some public organizations have called on citizens to hold rallies and manifestations on that day. Incidentally, picketing by members of the Working Moscow society also was held here today, at the White House.

Deputies proposed to return to the events of 23 February, to analyze them thoroughly today, and to invite Luzhkov and Murashov to the session for this purpose. Other deputies suggested that those Russian people's deputies who had staged the provocative rally on 23 February should be brought to account. Finally, a decision was made to set up a special commission to deal with investigation of those circumstances.

Some deputies proposed that government representatives be listened to at the next sessions. Specifically, the government memorandum sent to the International Monetary Fund caused bewilderment among some deputies, as it deals with an economic policy, and the deputies firmly believe that this policy should be approved at the Supreme Soviet. The issue of corruption among Moscow's and Petersburg's top echelons of power was also raised. It was announced in connection with this that a special law on combatting corruption would be drawn up in the near future and submitted to deputies for examination.

A whole number of other issues were proposed for the agenda; nevertheless, the deputies agreed that the laws that had already been put on the agenda should be examined first. They include, among others, a Russian Federation law on security. Its second reading was examined today and, finally, was adopted. I asked Dmitriy Antonovich Volkogonov, who is well known to our radio listeners, to comment upon it.

In your view, Dmitriy Antonovich, will the adoption of this law on security allow us to avoid many of the cataclysms which we observe, either within Russia or beyond its borders, but in which Russia is involved in some way? What is its gist?

[Volkogonov] To our great relief, there is no bloodshed on Russian territory, even if there have been individual outbursts of violence in different places. We are aware of this, but on the whole, thank God, we do not have any large-scale conflict which would require special intervention, even if there are tension spots.

I think that the adoption of this law permits one to look at the problem of security in a comprehensive way, from the point of view of armed forces, too. The main value of this law, which regards the problem of security as an absolutely vital condition for the nation's existence, consists, perhaps, in the fact that it regards the problem of security in a comprehensive way—not only from the point of view of the presence and activity of the armed forces, federal security, internal affairs bodies, ecological and medical security, and so on, but precisely from all sides. Therein lies its essence.

For some people the words national security immediately bring to mind our notorious KGB, state security bodies, or, say, armed forces. No, I think that the novel nature of this law consists precisely in the fact that legal foundations are being created for ensuring the security of the individual and society in general, and certain protection regardless of any cataclysm which might take place, be it an ecological catastrophe or a natural disaster of any kind, or a case of interethnic violence. From now on the state has legal foundations for eliminating these threats and dangers. I think that the creation of a security council will be a new thing in principle for our country, a security council under the president, which would be invested with great powers in regard to defining the strategy of actions by all the bodies which the state has at its disposal. This includes permanent members of security who hold such posts. I think this is a new development for Russia, and I hope that the working experience of such bodies in other countries can be useful.

On the whole, I think that the adoption of this law is a step forward, not only in the field of our society's and our state's legal awareness, but also a good basis for ensuring that our children and grandchildren will live in a more relaxed way in the future, without thinking about threats which could arise from any quarters.

[Ruvinskiy] Thank you. The law is brought into effect from the moment it is published, but the Supreme Soviet was instructed to develop a whole range of important draft laws related to it: among others on the state border, defense, on state service, on combatting corruption, and some others. The session continues.

Draft Laws on Defense, Servicemen Expected

LD0503224992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1440 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The Supreme Soviet today recommended that the Russian president consider creating the defense ministry and the state committee for defending the borders and the economic zone. This was noted in the decision on introducing the law "on security" that was made at the joint session of the chambers.

Apart from that, parliament's committees and commissions were instructed to prepare within the next three months and in collaboration with the government the draft laws on defense, on social protection of servicemen, on foreign intelligence, on fighting corruption and organized crime, and on the criminal procedure code. The Supreme Soviet also intends to prepare the draft laws on the continental shelf and the maritime economic zone. The parliamentary presidium was instructed to create the security department for protecting the supreme organs of state power and their officials.

The same decision instructs the Russian president to develop and present to parliament within a month a draft decree on creating a Russian Federation security council and to present to the Supreme Soviet before 1 July a report on provisions for securing the Russian state.

'Blue Helmets' To Be Sent to Yugoslavia

OW0603123592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian parliament has met Boris Yeltsin's request to send an infantry battalion as part of the UN peacekeeping force to Yugoslavia. Yeltsin turned for parliamentary approval upon receiving an urgent request to that effect from the UN Secretary-General, who acted under an appropriate resolution of the UN Security Council.

According to the Russian president, his country's involvement in the UN operations in Yugoslavia, which would be in the interests of all the conflicting parties there, would help strengthen Russia's international prestige. Direct contribution to UN peacekeeping activities would also be valuable from the viewpoint of our internal problems, Yeltsin observed.

According to IF's [INTERFAX] sources, a contingent to be sent to Yugoslavia has already been formed and "presented" to journalists near Ryazan on March 2. Parliamentarians were told that the 900-strong battalion consisted only of Russian citizens serving in the armed forces on a professional (contract) basis.

This is for the first time ever that Russia sends its troops to take part in "Blue Helmet" operations.

Tatarstan Referendum 'Fraught With Danger'

LD0203041192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1724 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 5 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russia's parliament today expressed concern over the plan to hold a referendum in Tatarstan on the issue of the Republic's status. This is "fraught with danger of ethnic discord and the destruction of the Russian Federation," says an appeal by the Russian parliament to the Supreme Soviet, people, and president of the Republic of Tatarstan.

The Republic's Supreme Soviet scheduled the referendum for 21 March. Tatarstan residents will be asked: "Do you agree that the Republic of Tatarstan is a sovereign state, a subject of international law, basing its relations with the Russian Federation and other republics and states upon treaties providing equal rights?"

Russian legislators feel that the rush to hold the referendum is intended to break the Tatar people's ties with other peoples and cause Tatarstan to secede from the Russian Federation. Russia's parliament also expressed the hope that the people of Tatarstan "will not fall in line behind the separatist forces."

The Russian Supreme Soviet also applied to the Constitutional Court to look into the constitutionality of the Tatarstan parliament decision to hold the referendum.

A decision passed at a joint session of the chambers today states that the referendum could lead to a change to the system of the Russian Federation as a national state and violation of its integrity. Yet, under Article 70 of the Russian Federation's Constitution, its territory may not be changed without its consent, and only the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation is empowered to give such consent.

The Supreme Soviet requested the chairman of the Russian Federation's Constitutional Court to require the Tatarstan parliament to suspend the Tatarstan Supreme Soviet decision to hold the referendum.

'Abuse of Power' Cited in Hotel Incident

OW0503132892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1034 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliamentary human rights committee insists on a special investigation of a complaint from a group of Chechens against the chairman of the parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov. On February 28 the committee received an appeal from Chechens who were allegedly kicked out of a Moscow hotel under verbal orders from Mr. Khasbulatov.

A statement of the committee says the committee chairman Mr. Arzhannikov and expert Mr. Orlov looked into the case. This is an evident violation of human rights and an example of abuse of power.

The committee called for forming a special commission to investigate the case and if charges brought against Ruslan Khasbulatov prove grounded, demand his removal from his post at the next Congress of People's Deputies.

Rutskoy Outlines Agrarian Policy to Deputies

LD0603092992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1447 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow, 5 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has introduced the agrarian deputies to the main areas of the agrarian reform and measures aimed at speeding it up. He has been entrusted with coordinating the work on agrarian reform. At the meeting which took place at the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, Aleksandr Rutskoy informed the deputies that the main principle of his acitivities in this sphere will be "preserving all that works efficiently and encouraging the creation of new structures".

In his opinion, the presidential decree and law on agrarian reform need reexamining. The establishment of an ex-budgetary land and agrarian reform fund for financing programs to create a construction industry for the countryside, gasification, and the conversion of the military-industrial complex toward production of agricultural machinery is envisaged. Various commercial structures at home as well as abroad, in particular Deutsche Bank and a London bank, have expressed their willingness to become the fund's founders and put their money in it.

One other financial source, noted Aleksandr Rutskoy, could be proceeds from the sale of the assets and property of the military units which are being withdrawn from the eastern European countries. The money from this fund will be directed toward financing and providing credits for the agricultural-industrial complex programs, a number of which have already been drawn up, including those with joint participation of Italian, Japanese, and German firms.

Deputies Congress 'Cannot Be Legally Held'

OW0503194492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leaders of the Russian Supreme Soviet do not believe that given Russia's status as a sovereign country, any bodies of the dissolved USSR can legally resume their operation on the territory of the former USSR. This position was outlined in comments by the Supreme

Soviet press center in connection with questions from Russian and foreign journalists about the attitude of the former Soviet parliamentarians toward the attempts to convene the congress. The comments describe the initiative as bewildering, to put it mildly.

The press center says that the "congress" cannot be legally held since the Soviet parliamentarians themselves had triggered the dissolution of the Union at their 5th congress by deciding to dissolve the congress.

The press center reminded that when the agreement on the creation of the CIS was signed, it was stated that the USSR went out of existence as a subject of international law and a geopolitical reality. This was confirmed in the December 21, 1991, Alma-Ata CIS Declaration. The comments say that the parliaments of the CIS states, the Russian Federation included, decided to recall their deputies from the Soviet parliament and annul the powers of the Soviet parliament's deputy body. Leaders of the CIS parliament criticized the efforts to convene the so-called congress of the USSR at the February 27 Moscow conference, said the Russian parliament's press-center.

Regional Affairs

Chechen President: 'There Will Be War'

LD0603061192

[Editorial Report] London BBC Television Network in English at 2235 GMT on 5 March in the "Newsnight" program carries an eight-minute report by correspondent Mark Urban on the independence movement in the Chechen Republic in Russia.

Urban begins by explaining the Chechen desire for independence and the moves toward filling that desire. Local Chechens are shown celebrating ancient Islamic rites outside the old communist building. Imam of Groznyy Shaykh Mansur notes that President Dzhakhar Dudayev is the leader of the movement toward independence.

Urban talks about the past battles for freedom. He speaks to Ardiy Sarganiyev, grandson of a past Chechen revolt leader. Urban then describes President Dudayev's presidential manner and his residence at No. One Shakespeare Street. This is followed by a description of Dudayev's career and his fight for freedom from Russia.

Dudayev states: "There will be war and it will not be limited to our republic. We have good contacts and agreements with other republics in the Caucasus. The recent events have shown us that tens of thousands of soldiers from all over the Caucasus are ready to fight against Russia. We have made our plans and we will soon see the results. The situation will spread, not only all over the Caucasus, but all over the whole world."

The report continues with Urban explaining the Chechen arms industry and Dudayev's attitude toward arms. Dudayev's eight-year-old son is shown with a Wolf submachine gun. Dudayev states: "The Chechens are accustomed to give away small boys to other families so that they can be brought up as soldiers and forget about the love of their parents. Seven-year-old boys are then in a position to become army reservists. The Chechen people have never been interested in the wealth of the earth and the way of educating Chechen people has served us well under all the years of socialism."

Urban then describes the newspaper CAUCASUS. He discusses CAUCASUS editor Moussa Temishev's relationship with Dudayev and the validity of Dudayev's threats to the Russian Government. Temishev comments about Dudayev's mission to free Chechen. Groznyy airfield and the air force jets left behind by a Russian unit are shown as the reporter describes how Dudayev plans to use the leftover jets. Chechen pilot Hamzat Muyidov verifies Dudayev's plans.

Sultan Mehduyev, an economic advisor to the Chechen Government, talks about the need for the military as Chechen military curfew methods are shown. Dudayev comments: "Moscow appears to be the factory of violence, the kitchen of terrorism. The people employed by the Moscow KGB and other state bodies are trying to create psychological conditions which will nurture terrorism. They have already sent hundreds and hundreds of Argon provocatuers to Chechenya from all over the former Soviet Union."

As the president's bodyguards are shown Urban talks about Dudayev's image as a lawman and Mehduyev comments on law and order. Urban talks about the possibility of the Chechen Republic being run as a mafia state, thus explaining the desire for more arms. Urban then discusses Chechen business and the law, over footage showing Chechen outdoor bazaars. Tamishev discusses Dudayev's placing of criminals in prominent government positions. Dudayev says: "All the members of the mafia are showing up as former members of the Communist Party—those who got into the former communist government by giving bribes. For them, they will just go on shopping for government positions. The Chechens who got into the old government did so by devious roots because the law stopped them from being in positions of power."

Urban describes the mafia's relationship with the Chechen Government and reveals documents detailing various government officials' relationships with the old Communist Party.

Tamishev then describes Dudayev's presidential strategies and how people feel about him, but how the people are in love with a fantasy, not necessarily the man. The report conludes with a discussion about Chechen's social life and shows footage of a wedding celebration.

Recruitment Ready; Talks Considered

LD0603074292 Moscow TASS in English 0649 GMT 6 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS writer Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Moscow March 6 TASS—Talks might soon begin between Russia and the Chechen Republic, which makes part of Russia but claims sovereignty, to settle the disputed problems. The Chechen leaders who earlier conditioned the talks on Russian recognition of the independence of their republic, agreed to hold negotiations in a letter forwarded to the Russian leadership on Wednesday [4 March], according to TASS correspondent in Groznyy. The talks are expected to be held in the city of Sochi on the Black Sea.

In the meantime, Chechen President Dzhakhar Dudayev is ready to recruit 50,000 militants in a day in case the situation around the Chechen Republic aggravates. Men of 15 to 55 years of age are to be mobilised according to a plan worked out to "repell aggression," he told the "DNESTROVSKIY MERIDIAN" weekly on Thursday [5 March], 600,000 people will be enlisted in ten days, he added.

The Chechen Republic proclaimed independence late last year, but Russia protested against the separatist tendencies of the Chechen leaders and did not acknowledge the independence.

Since the proclamation of independence the political and economic situation in the Chechen Republic has aggravated. Last February crowds attacked military depots and seized thousands of firearms. A state of emergency, introduced on February 11, has not been lifted yet.

Local observers believe the adventurist policy of the Chechen leaders are the cause for the latest aggravation of situation inside the republic. However, Dudayev blames the Russian leadership for the developments.

"The Russian centre has replaced the communist one," he told the weekly, reiterating his earlier accusations that Russia wants to "strangle the freedom of highlanders."

Delayed Payments To Stop Chechen Oil to Russia

OW0503192592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of the Chechen Republic Dzhakhar Dudayev said that the republic will stop oil shipments to Russia if Moscow does not send necessary cash payment to Groznyy. In an interview Thursday [5 March] with "Interfax" and the editor in chief of the "Pod Nebom Gruzii" newspaper Dudayev said Russia owes the republic more than 1 billion rubles. In the first quarter of this year Moscow has paid off just 90 million rubles of its debt.

The Chechen leader also said that his emissaries would visit oil mining and refining regions in the former USSR, particularly, Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan to "consolidate forces to resist Russia's economic and financial blockade" and cut off the supply of oil products to the republic.

Concerning the perspectives for the creation of a union of Caucasian States, Dudayev indicated that he would begin with the unity of his republic and Georgia. He said it must not be limited to those states. "We must work on a program to unite all the peoples of the Caucasus" and with the help of economic cooperation unite all regions and districts adjacent to the Caucasus region. Namely, the Rostov and Volgograd regions and the Stavropol and Krasnodar districts.

Opposition Plans To Overthrow Dudayev by Force

LD0603110292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0935 GMT 6 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Mar (TASS)—An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from trustworthy sources in Moscow that the opposition in Chechenya is preparing to overthrow Dzhakhar Dudayev, president of the republic, by force of arms. This is scheduled to begin after the Muslim fast of Ramadan, which lasts from 7 March to 6 April. At the same time as armed detachments are being made ready, work is going on among parliamentary deputies with the aim of removing Dudayev by parliamentary means. The same sources assert that about 40 percent of the deputies have agreed to take part in this.

At the same time, it is apparent that harsher measures aimed at strengthening the regime are being taken by Dzhakhar Dudayev against the opposition. In the second half of February a "Grad" installation was brought into the republic. At the same time firearms were brought into Sunzhenskiy rayon and distributed to Dudayev supporters. There are as many as 1,000 Dudayev supporters bearing firearms, who took part in the war in Afghanistan, in the 15th military settlement.

Armed detachments are also being created by the president's opponents. In particular, arms were delivered to Nadterechnyy rayon at the end of February. The political situation in the republic is complicated even more by the social and economic problems. There is no ready cash in the republican bank. Dudayev stated on 2 March that if the Russian Government does not allocate the necessary cash he will shut down the oil pipeline which comes out of Chechenya. Dudayev's representatives are now in Moscow to decide on these questions. At the end of February Dudayev stated on local television that all the disturbances in the republic were provoked by Moscow and by those who have betrayed the Chechen people, among whom he named Russian Parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov and a number of former leaders of Checheno-Ingushetia. As a president, he has ordered that

they be destroyed "if they do not get out of Checheniya or stop their sabotage activities".

Tatar President Shaymiyev Interviewed on Future

LD0603055192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2025 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Interview with Mintimer Sharipovich Shaymiyev, president of the Republic of Tatarstan, by reporter Igor Khrekin; place and date not given; from the "Fifth Wheel" program—recorded]

[Text] [Khrekin] Mintimer Sharipovich, a referendum is to be held in Tatarstan on 21 March. The following question is being asked: Do you agree that the Republic of Tatarstan is a sovereign state and a subject of international law building its relations with the Russian Federation and other republics and states on treaties based on equality of rights? What does this wording mean? Could you explain?

[Shaymiyev] First, I would like to explain why it is necessary to hold the referendum. After our declaration of state sovereignty was adopted on 30 August 1990, when the now disintegrated center still existed, neither the former center nor Russia recognized the declaration of state sovereignty made by our republic or those made by other former autonomous regions. Time is passing. In people's minds the issue of the establishment of statehood is assuming ever greater understanding and force. Under these circumstances, so that the declaration is recognized, our republic's Supreme Soviet decided to discuss the issue through a referendum. It is above all a question of confirming the declaration of state sovereignty of our republic.

[Khrekin] Does this mean that the Republic of Tatarstan will establish its own currency and its own army, like any other sovereign state?

[Shaymiyev] We do not have such goals, because once we declare ourselves a sovereign state, the very next day we have to begin to consider how this state is going to exist. Following its declaration or, in this case, confirmation, by a nationwide vote, any independence or sovereignty begins to become self-limiting as a result of the questions regarding how this sovereign state will continue to exist and build a life for its people. Therefore, taking account of the location of our republic and the age-old links with the peoples of Russia, I think that we should live in a single economic space. We should not only strengthen, or to be more exact, set out that today we have such links on the basis of an equal alliance with Russia, but we should also increase these traditions for the benefit of all peoples.

[Khrekin] What is this about being a subject of international law? Does it mean that the Republic of Tatarstan will have its own representations abroad? Will it introduce its own passports?

[Shaymiyev] We recently signed at government level an economic agreement with the Russian Federation. In this agreement we specified the autonomy of the economic activity of the Republic of Tatarstan. This already gives us the basis to be able to act in international affairs, particularly in matters of economic cooperation, as a full member of the international community. We are capable of developing this further. Without doubt, if it turns out to be necessary based on the rules of international cooperation, we may open representations and consulates. In short, we will adopt whatever form is required for cooperation with any particular foreign country.

[Khrekin] The question you are asking in the referendum mentions building relations with the Russian Federation and other republics on a state basis in terms of equal treaties. Does this mean that Tatarstan is leaving the Russian Federation and that relations with the Russian Federation will be on the same level as, for example, relations with Bulgaria?

[Shaymiyev] This is often asked. I always reply that in the first place, under the conditions of the renovation of our society, the Russian Federation cannot remain unrenovated. It should be radically renovated. Anyone who thinks that when such processes are under way in our society the Russian Federation can remain unrenovated with regard to its state structure, is simply harboring illusions.

We want to build completely new relations with the Russian Federation. We are not raising the question of leaving or entering.

There can indeed be relations that take account of all the realities that have evolved throughout these years and take account of what is needed to ensure the successful development of our peoples in the future. There must be equal relations within the framework of a union [soyuznyye otnosheniya]. We want a union [soyuz] with Russia on the basis of an equal treaty, without making any claims to anything as far as territory is concerned or setting any other conditions. We have no claims against anyone. I think that such a form of relations will be found. The reason is that the republic has enormous potential. It can successfully pursue both domestic and foreign economic activities with the objective of allowing peoples to live much better than now.

[Khrekin] Do you have any predictions on the results of the referendum?

[Shaymiyev] Predictions are not easy, particularly these days when society is in the grip of such a crisis. I think that there should be a solution under which no one loses. You will know that in percentage terms in our republic there is practically a one to one correlation between the Tatar population and the Russian-speaking population. Under these circumstances, I think that an absolute majority of the population should vote in favor of the question and reply in the affirmative. This is because it would be a most valuable indicator. First, it would be evidence that friendship between the peoples of our

republic is strong and, in passing the test of the present troubled period, we would lay a good foundation for the future generations. It would show that friendship is continuing, has become, and is becoming stronger still for the good of our children and grandchildren and for centuries to come. That is how I approach this issue. I think that the population of our republic can understand this. The importance of such a collective reply is simply too great. We expect that the peoples of our republic will approach these questions precisely with such understanding.

Since the decision was made to hold a referendum in our republic on 21 March various rumors have been reaching us. I would say that this is incomplete understanding. There are various arguments as to what the republic of Tatarstan lacks and whether this is creating some new precedent. I would like to reassure people and explain that while reaffirming our state sovereignty, we want the republic to be able to get away from the mediocrity that was the case in the old state construction within the former Union. We want to end the oppressed state of all the peoples of our republic, so that they may use their whole potential and dispose of it for the good of the peoples of our republic and of all peoples. We cannot put the issue in any other way. Why? Because the Russian leadership.... [pauses] As I have already said, we have to think very seriously about how the state construction of Russia needs to be reformed.

What is the situation? We have had two centers in our republic: a Union center and a Russian center. The Russian center under the Union center was to a certain extent just decorative and without much in the way of rights. Now a no less tough center is being created, which at present may even be less professional as far as grappling practically with issues concerning the economy of the regions. It is doing a lot less than even the Union center did formerly. I can understand that in part. Why? Because the transition to market conditions is in progress and such direct assistance to the economy, especially regarding material provisions, is evidently difficult.

If that is the case, there must be fewer such claims. The number of people wanting to divide the spoils is now larger than ever before. We cannot agree to this. Market relations [word indistinct] and everything must be set out clearly on the basis of treaties and agreements. We make no other claims to anything. We do not claim any advantages over other regions. Both now and following the referendum it is and will be a question of a very close union [soyuz] between our republic and Russia on the basis of a treaty based on equal rights.

[Khrekin] So Russia need not fear its own disintegration in the manner of the Union?

[Shaymiyev] We must find a new form of relations, as I said. What does that mean? How can you go around destroying Russia when you are in this sort of geographical situation? Why do we need that? We should not imagine that the republic has simply put down its suitcase and now can just pick it up and go off somewhere. Regrettably, some people are presenting things as if this were the case. There can be completely new relations that take account of the interests of the Republic of Tatarstan, as in this case.

Let me restate this. The referendum will take place. The next day, or soon after, the Supreme Soviet must convene and proclaim unity with Russia [zayavit o soyuze s Rossiyey]. After that, because of expediency, it will be necessary to hand very many areas of life over to joint jurisdiction on a treaty basis. So many structures have evolved between us over the past years, particularly in the national economy, that it would not be to our advantage or to Russia's advantage if a form of joint jurisdiction is not provided. We have a vast military-industrial complex and other such production facilities on the territory of the republic. There is a very substantial petrochemical industry. Very important Union supply lines pass through the territory of the republic. All the main product pipelines, gas pipelines, and oil pipelines pass through here. You know that the Druzhba oil pipeline begins on our territory. All this must be in joint use for reasons of expediency. We have never wanted any confrontation and do not want it now.

However firm Tatarstan's position might be, anyone can confirm that since the adoption of the declaration on 30 August there has not been any form of confrontaton on our side. We proceed in a constitutional and civilized way as far as the creation of our statehood is concerned. We have no other approach, and any other would be unacceptable to us.

[Khrekin] Thank you.

Comments on Sovereignty

LD0503185392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2147 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Tataria is the former autonomous republic of the Russian Federation and was among the first republics in Russia to adopt a sovereignty declaration in August 1990. Mintimer Shaymiyev, the former leader of the republic's Communist Party, was elected president of the sovereign Tatarstan. Complex processes have been taking place in this republic lately; some people regard them as an upsurge in national revival, others see them as an outbreak of nationalism. First of all, it is the question of the demands which are being heard here with regard to granting Tatarstan the status of a sovereign state whose relations with Russia are treaty-governed. In order to learn about what is going on in the republic at, so to speak, first hand, our correspondent met Mintimer Shaymiyev, the president of Tatarstan.

[Shaymiyev] I believe that what is taking place now is what had to happen in such a large republic as ours—a republic which has a huge potential and which historically has strong traditions of statehood. In the conditions of building a democratic society and in connection with

the upsurge in people's conscience, the republic has started to speak loudly about the need to increase the role of its state organization. It is a natural process connected with the restructuring of our entire society.

[Correspondent] Does it mean—as many believe—that Tatarstan is in favor of virtually complete independence from Russia?

[Shaymiyev] We do not use the word "independence" either in its form or its content anywhere. Why? Because of our geographical position and the fact that we have a common history and there is a community of peoples, it is a question of new relations and of a union with Russia as equals. This is what the matter is about. I was advocating and I still advocate—and I am supported by the majority of the population in this—namely relations governed by treaties. What is offered by a draft constitution of the Russian Federation does not suit us. Why? Because then republics are losing their identity as a state and national entity.

[Correspondent] What do you personally—as the President of Tatarstan—mean by the republic's sovereignty?

[Shaymiyev] Tatarstan needs sovereignty to be able to tackle its issues with the present center and other states as an equal and to use the huge potential at our republic's disposal. This is the main thing. And on this basis to provide a better life for the population as we all have opportunities for this. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Naturally, should Tatarstan acquire real sovereignty, the question regarding the fate of the Russian-speaking population arises which accounts practically for a half of the republic's population.

[Shaymiyev] When we speak about sovereignty, we speak on behalf of the entire multi-ethnic population of the republic. On this basis we must achieve the prosperity of the entire people of our republic without dividing it according to ethnic affiliations.

[Correspondent] At the end of last year three republics—Russia, the Ukraine and Belarus—destroyed the Union completely and set up a Commonwealth of Independent States. Can we expect, for example, that the leaders of former autonomous republics—for example Tatarstan, Bashkortostan and Yakutia—will get together, put an end to the existence of the Russian Federation and proclaim the creation of a new society?

[Shaymiyev] I do not think so. I have already said that while the republics and states which you have just enumerated destroyed the Union, we are in favor of a union with Russia and in favor of a renewed federation. The Russian Federation should renew itself on an equal treaty-governed basis. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Recently a number of various Tatar ethnic public movements who are in favor of the republic's complete independence gathered at a Kurultay—a people's meeting—in Kazan where the so-called Milli Majlis was elected which proclaimed itself the people's parliament. The Supreme Soviet of Tatarstan recognized the acts of the Milli Majlis as void. What is the attitude of the president of Tatarstan to this event?

[Shaymiyev] My attitude to the Milli Majlis is what it would be to any public organization, and no more than that. We have a famous public movement—the all-Tatar Public Center. Anyway, if one disregards their share of involvement in politics, and regards their involvement in the development of the language and culture, they are doing a great deal. I think that the Kurultay and the Milli Majlis could do a lot in this respect. They should deal less in politics and do more what should be done in accordance with their rules and programs. [passage omitted: Shaymiyev on republic's economic measures for supporting the population during the transfer to a market and on lack of threat on the part of Islamic Fundamentalism. In conclusion the president is requested to say a few words in the Tatar language with subsequent translation into Russian, Shaymiyev spoke about the forthcoming World Congress of Tatars in June].

Majlis Ready to Pursue Self-Determination

OW0503194292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tatarstan's milli majlis (national congress) of Tatarstan reserves the right to take "adequate" decisions to ensure the republic's right to self-determination "in case the referendum of March 21 does not take place or produces negative returns", said a Thursday milli majlis session taking place in Kazan. The milli majlis Talgat Abdullin explained that this adequacy can include measures such as: an appeal to the Tatarstan masses, calls for consolidation, including and up to the dissolution of power structures.

The delegates laid down the status of the kurultai (all-Tatar congress) as the mouthpiece of the entire Tatar nation. The kurultai establishes its body of power, the milli majlis, to implement the kurultai decisions between the sessions. The milli majlis has as its objective to restore Tatarstan to full statehood and make it a subject of international law.

On the same day the milli majlis session adjourned until after the March 21 referendum.

Nationalists Warn Russia of Chemical 'Tools'

LD0603092192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] According to an IMA-Press report, the main bulk of chemical weapons of the CIS Armed Forces is stockpiled in Tatarstan. The local natonalists warn that it can be used as a tool of bringing pressure to bear upon Moscow if Russia takes tough measures against Tatarstan.

Omsk Communists Demand Elections To Soviets

LD0503191392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1243 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Omsk [dateline as received]—Omsk communists demand that new elections to the soviets be held before the end of 1992. Leonid Tsipnyatov, one of the leaders of the Omsk Regional Organization of the Russian Communist Workers Party formed on February 29, 1992, told PF [POSTFACTUM] that Omsk communists also demand the abrogation of the decree banning the CPSU, putting on trial Boris Yeltsin as hireling of world capital and Mikhail Gorbachev for depleting the country's gold reserve to one tenth of what it was. Omsk communists also declare against reforms conducted by the Russian Government and for convening a Congress of the USSR People's Deputies.

Omsk Deputies Support Holding Congress

LD0503190892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1243 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Omsk [dateline as received] People's deputies of USSR from Omsk supported the idea of holding the sixth extraordinary Congress of USSR People's Deputies in Moscow on March 17. A statement of USSR people's deputies was published in the regional newspaper OMSKAYA PRAVDA on March 4. The authors demand that there should be a check to verify that the decrees of the Russian president on banning the activity of the CPSU and on land reform and the decrees of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR to rename RSFSR into the Russian Federation corresponds to law. Two out of eight signatories to the statement are former first secretaries of the Omsk Regional Committee of the CPSU Yevgeniy Pokhitailo and Ivan Nazarov. Deputies of the Democratic Orientation—Aleksandr Minzhurenko and Alexey Kazannik—are not among the authors of the statement.

Arkhangelsk Creates Company for Diamond Mining

OW0503220492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2048 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "Interfax Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the local newspaper "Volna," Arkadiy Lichutin, first deputy head of the Arkhangelsk regional authorities, announced the region's intention to create a stock company with foreign capital to mine and process diamonds. A complete production line from mining to production of finished products, (diamond instruments for example), is planned.

The Arkhangelsk regional authorities will be the largest shareholders in the company, according to Mr. Lichutin. Other shareholders will include Glavalmazzoloto and the Arkhangelskgeologiya company. Lichutin did not name the potential Western investors, saying only that banks from northern countries had expressed great interest in the project. The cost of the project is estimated at 14-15 bn rubles [billion rubles]. About one third of this sum would have to be in hard currency, Mr. Lichutin has determined. "Buildings are standing, the diamonds are ours, we have new mining technology," said Lichutin, "but we have to get modern processing technology with dollars, and also buy what we need pr for construction purposes.

Mr. Lichutin announced that the project which the Arkhangelsk regional authorities developed is now being considered by the government, and should be signed by Vice Prime Minister Gaydar.

International Affairs

Prime Minister, French Official Discuss Debt

LD0503215992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2030 GMT 3 mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Anatoliy Grigoryev]

[Text] Kiev, 3 Mar (TASS)—Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitold Fokin today received Jean-Claude Trichet, president of the group of creditor-countries of the former Soviet Union. The meeting took place behind closed doors. Journalists were merely told that the discussion was about the possibility of Ukraine's direct participation in the world financial market, and prospects for its paying off its part of the foreign debt of the former USSR.

After the conversation, Vitold Fokin told journalists that it was extraordinarily interesting and useful.

It was decided to hold final discussions on the question of debt repayments and the offering of new credits on 11 March in Moscow. The meeting will be on a trilateral basis with the participation of Russia's representatives.

Kravchuk Proposes Economic Ties With Chechenya

LD0303200392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Ukrainian President Kravchuk has held talks with a representative of General Dudayev and handed over a message addressed to the leader of Chechnya proposing that it establishes direct economic links with Ukraine.

Foreign Ministry Official on Policy With Iran

LD0503173792 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 4 Mar 92

[From the "Ukrainian Diary" program]

[Text] [Announcer] A news conference was held at the Ukraine's Foreign Ministry for Ukrainian and foreign journalists on the foreign political activities of Ukraine. The thing is that the process of recognition of the independent Ukraine and establishment of diplomatic ties with our republic continue. As it was stated at the press conference, 105 countries have recognized Ukraine, the latest of them was Pakistan. Diplomatic relations have been established with 49 countries, the latest of them were Finland and Malaysia. At the news conference journalists were briefed on the results of the official visit of Ukraine's delegation headed by the First Vice-Premier of Ukraine Konstantin Masyk to Iran. The issues of oil and gas supplies to Ukraine were discussed. Speaking about the importance of the visit to Iran, a member of the Ukrainian delegation, representative of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry Igor (?Turanskiy) in part said the following:

[(?Turanskiy) in Ukrainian fading to English translation] It should be said the Ukraine's president favored our republic's desire to cooperate with Iran in the oil and gas industry. He also was anxious about the destiny of 80 young men who were fighting in Afghanistan as soldiers of the Soviet Army. They were enlisted from Ukraine's territory and until now have not returned home. Ukraine's [as heard] president assured Konstantin Masyk that he, being guided by humane principles, will do his best so as to expedite liberation of those prisoners of war, said Igor (?Turanskiy).

[Announcer] A correspondent of the British newspaper the GUARDIAN asked whether Ukraine was going to sell weapons to Iran in response to the supplies of oil and gas from that country. Igor (?Turanskiy) replied:

[(?Turanskiy), in Ukrainian fading to English translation] I know that there were some publications, including foreign newspapers and Russian IZVESTIYA and PRAVDA newspapers that Ukraine is allegedly going to pay weapons for gas and oil products. I personally do not know anything about this. As for the sale of weapons, this problem is vital for Ukraine now because it is necessary to carry out conversion and to do something with the weapons which are manufactured on Ukraine's territory. There are no international legal documents, including decisions of the UN, which would prohibit the sale of any weaponry to Iran. There is a decision on banning sale of offensive weapons to Iraq but there is no mentioning of Iran. As far as I know, so far Ukraine is not engaged in this business, said Igor (?Turanskiy).

[Announcer] There were quite a few other questions to Igor (?Turanskiy), for instance—if Iran is capable of supplying Ukraine with oil products and how Ukraine will pay for the Iranian oil:

[(?Turanskiy), in Ukrainian fading to English translation] Soon perhaps it will not be a state approach if we deal only with one country. In fact, it is a similar problem we have with Russia in relation to oil supplies for Ukraine. It is just this problem with Russia which made Ukraine's Government think about other sources of supplies to Ukraine. As far as I know from the Ukrainian press, delegation of Kuwait visited Kiev recently. As was also informed in the press, Ukraine's foreign minister, while taking part in the previous 46th session of the General Assembly, had talks with representatives of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and other oil extracting states, so perhaps some negotiations are being held in this connection, said Igor (?Turanskiy).

Revenue To Be Earned From Foreign Overflights

LD0603064292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has decided to set up a committee for the use of the republic's airspace in the immediate future. In this way the Ukrainian Government satisfies the demands of local air

traffic controllers, the KHARKHOV News Agency reports. After the committee is set up, revenue earned from foreign airplanes flying over Ukrainian territory will go into its coffers.

National Affairs

President Kravchuk Meets With Rukh Leaders

LD0503142192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] President of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk has met with Mikhaylo Horyn, Ivan Drach, and Vyacheslav Chornovil, three cochairmen of the Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka [Rukh], the KHARKOV-NOVOSTI agency reports. The Rukh leaders explained their position to the president on topical political and other problems. They oppose Ukraine's membership of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] and support bilateral treaties with the former USSR's republics and accelerated economic reform. The Rukh also opposes including the troops stationed in Ukraine and armed with nuclear wepons in the CIS strategic forces. Apart from that, the Rukh leaders reject the idea of concluding a special treaty between Ukraine and Crimea.

President Kravchuk Appoints New Ministers

LD0603113692 Kiev Radio Kiev First Program Network in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Ukraine President Kravchuk has issued a number of decrees in accordance with which he has appointed Viktor Dmytravych Hladush Ukraine's industry minister; Anatoliy Kalentykovych Minchenko minister of state resources; and Vasyl Mykhaylovych Tkachuk minister of agriculture and food. [passage omitted]

Kravchuk Details Economy; Suggests 'Emergency'

OW0503181292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine suggested Thursday [5 March] at a parliamentary session that economic emergency be called in the republic for 1992.

According to Kravchuk, the Ukrainian economy may face a situation when "urgent, active action will be needed to match the urgency of the situation".

The Ukrainian president also suggested that parliamentary standing commissions alongside the government prepare a list of laws and regulations or some of their provisions which will be suspended for 1992 due to an emergency situation in the economy.

In his economic assessment Leonid Kravchuk said that the industrial output declined by 20% and the budget deficit exceeded 50 billion rubles. The situation in agriculture has also deteriorated.

The main task now is to stop "political gaves which only aggravate the situation", Kravchuk said, adding that what is needed "is to restore order locally".

The parliament which devoted its Thursday's session primarily to agriculture, began discussing the president's proposal on economic emergency.

Parliament Discusses Agricultural Situation

LD0503175292 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] After a week of interim the Ukrainian parliament resumed its plenary sessions today [3 March]. A week-long break did not cool off the heated atmosphere in the parliament session hall as MPs [members of parliament] launched into a high spirited debate over the head-spinning economic problems in Ukraine. Here is a detailed story on that.

Two questions were discussed at today's plenary sitting: one on the abrogation of item one of the Article 19 of Ukraine's Law on Entrepeneurship for 1992 and the draft law on the National Security Service. The MPs also examined the most burning issues pertaining to life and labor conditions of miners. Local strikes, which have just got underway, may acquire an unprecedented scope if the strikers' demands are not met half-way in due time. The same situation is in Lugansk. In Krivoy Rog an all-city strike is underway as well, as was reported by one of the MPs. The miners do not have trust in the government and authorities at all levels. The only body they still place their hopes in is the parliament of Ukraine. This week the government is to report on preparations for the spring sowing campaign which is under the threat of frustration.

As the Deputy Cheban from Nikolayev said, now we get down to the spring sowing campaign with the absence of fuel, spare parts, agricultural machinery. No credits are given to agricultural enterprises. We even do not have money to buy seeds. The collective farms, individual farmers, the entire people of Ukraine have little chances if any to survive if the situation is not improved, said Deputy Cheban. The situation in agriculture remains very tense indeed. Being aware of this, a group of deputy agrarians announced from the session rostrum that they will not take part in the work of the session unless the government solves their problems already tomorrow.

During the break our reporter asked people's deputy Yuriy Zbitnev to comment on the above statement by Deputy Cheban. Yuriy Zbitnev said that now the deputies representing the interests of the farmers understood that the farming economy of Ukraine is on the verge of a total collapse—if they do not manage to complete the sowing campaign in a proper manner, the city residents will starve. The problem of fuel supply should have been solved back in December last year. Meanwhile, oil

tankers have been anchored in the Odessa port for almost two weeks now and we have no time to unload them. Moreover, this oil is 14 times more expensive than the oil which was traditionally delivered Tyumen in Russia. Demagogic claims that we can survive on our own are only harmful. Ukraine must exist as an independent state but it must also maintain relations with its closest neighbors from where we can receive fuels and timber at lower prices and where we can sell our agricultural produce, said people's deputy Yuriy Zbitnev.

After a heated debate around the fuel supply, prices, (?taxes), poor living conditions of miners, the MPs got down to considering the first question on the agenda. There was a proposal to abrogate item one of the Article 19 of the Law on Entrepeneurship for 1992, that is to restore state control over the wage and consumption funds.

In his report on the question at hand, Minister of Labor Mykhaylo Kaskevych in particular said that price liberalization resulted in the price growth which cannot be justified. In many cases consumption funds are overinflated. The main reason for this is the absence of the mechanism of monopolistic activity. We have not yet considered a draft program for demonopolization of production.

Only within this week, the work will be resumed on considering in the second reading the bill on privatisation, so a lot of work is still ahead.

Vote on Proposal Postponed

LD0503205392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] I now want to draw your attention to the fact that Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk today proposed at the session of the Republic's parliament that an economic state of emergency for 1992 be introduced. The president noted that the main task now—and this cannot be denied—is to stop the political games that are making the situation worse:

[Correspondent V. Lyaskalo] The square in front of the Ukrainian parliament was unexpectedly deserted first thing this morning. It must be said, to give the peasants their due, that, despite tradition, they did not leave their villages, fields, and farms during this spring season and did not come here with placards to remind deputies of the importance of an item on the agenda: How will the spring field work be carried out properly if there is no fuel, there is not enough seed or fertilizer, and there are no spare parts? If a new combine harvester is to be bought for 1 million rubles, for example, then all collective farms need to work a whole year.

President Kravchuk spoke, saying that the countryside's problems must be solved in an integrated way, since it is not just agriculture that is in decline today. Somewhat unexpectedly for many deputies, it seems, the president proposed to the Supreme Soviet that an economic state of emergency be introduced in Ukraine until the end of 1992. Moreover, a number of laws that entail particularly heavy costs to implement should be suspended. A vote on the president's proposal was postponed.

Supreme Soviet Approves Privatization Bill

LD0503114692 Moscow TASS in English 1038 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev March 5 TASS—The Ukrainian parliament approved a second reading of the privatisation bill on Wednesday [4 March], laying down legal, economic and organisational foundations for the privatisation of state-owned and republican enterprises, as well as communal property.

The law allows privatisation by Ukrainian citizens, foreigners, people without citizenship, and legal entities registered in the republic. It also allows citizens to make joint bids for property put out to privatisation.

Krivoy Rog Miners Continue Strike

LD0603064992 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Miners in Krivoy Rog basin continue their strike. They held negotiations with the Minister of Industry of Ukraine Viktor Hladush. The negotiations, although they brought about some positive results, did not help solve the main demand of the striking miners and metallurgists to lower prices for foodstuffs. The strikers also insist on the resignation of the leaders of the regional soviet of people's deputies and the personnel of the executive council. So far only the chairman of the soviet, Mykola Zadoya, has given his resignation.

Bank Deputy Chairman 'Forced To Resign'

LD0503222292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A new twist on the question of introducing Ukrainian currency and the economic problems can be expected during the parliamentary debates in Kiev. News agencies report that the deputies today learned that National Bank Deputy Chairman Savchenko, one of the initiators of the economic reforms, was forced to resign. He said a few days ago that if the government introduces the hryvnya [proposed name for Ukrainian currency] in the same way it introduced the coupons, the results will be sad. A special parliamentary commission is investigating the competence of the decisions made on the question of introducing the national currency. Some

observers note that Savchenko's resignation is connected with the general struggle between the reformers and conservatives in the corridors of power in Kiev.

Moscow Airport Ukrainian Servicemen Take Oath

LD0403182892 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] More than 300 young Ukrainians who are carrying out military service in the Moscow international airport, Sheremetyevo 2, took an oath of allegiance to Ukraine. All of them gave their consent to continue service in the troops of the Commonwealth on the territory of Russia.

Kiev Servicemen Not Taking Oath To Be Deported

LD0503181892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] All Kiev Military District servicemen who have not sworn the oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people will leave the Republic's boundaries by 15 March. The military district's press center reports that more than 1,000 of the 5,000 servicemen who refused to take the Ukrainian oath have already been sent to Russia and other CIS countries. Military servicemen who have expressed a wish to complete their service in their military collectives on Ukrainian territory will be given such an opportunity.

Paper Not Published Due to Lack of Funds

AU0403163792 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 10 Feb 92 p 4

[Appeal to "like-minded colleagues" by Ivan Kandyba, chairman of the All-Ukrainian Political Association for Ukrainian State Independence; place and date of issue not given]

[Text] The All-Ukrainian Political Association for Ukrainian State Independence does not possess a sufficient material foundation to effectively implement its program, in particular, for publishing the newspaper NESKORENA NATSIYA [A RECALCITRANT NATION], for elucidating and disseminating Ukrainian nationalist ideas, and for promoting the realization of our principal goal—the building of an independent Ukrainian state.

We, therefore, appeal to organizations, institutions, enterprises, and private persons both within Ukraine and outside it—to those whose ideals coincide with ours, with a request for financial support.

Please send your donations to the following address: Lvov-2, Kopernik Street, 4, registered No. 270080, OPER ZhSB, Lvov MFO 325019. Information may be obtained at Lvov-5, Konopnytska Street, 8/4, Tel. 76-44-68.

Ivan Kandyba, chairman of the leadership of the Ukrainian State Independence Association.

Academy of Law Society Formed in Kharkov

LD0503180592 Moscow TASS in English 1738 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Valeriy Puzikov for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Kharkhov March 5—The public society "Academy of Law of Ukraine" was formed on Wednesday [4 March] in Kharkov at the constituent conference of this organization. Leading scholars and workers of law and order maintenance bodies have put up before them the goal to consolidate intellectual potential of lawyers for creation of a democratic Ukrainian state. The conference approved the charter and elected the presidium of the academy.

Orthodox Group Pickets Ivano-Frankovsk Soviet

LD0403235992 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 2200 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Almost 4,000 believers of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church began picketting the Ivano-Frankovsk Soviet of People's Deputies. This has been evoked by the unilateral decision of the region's soviet on transferring the religious buildings of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church to the Greek Catholic Church. The picketers are demanding the annulment of the decision, the transfer of the [name indistinct] monastery to the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church, a premises for a theological seminary, the resignation of the Council for Religious Affairs, and the resignation of the leadership of the region's soviet. The leadership of the Ivano-Frankovsk regional soviet did not wish to meet with and calm down the believers. Then the picketers blocked the railway station in Ivano-Frankovsk for several hours. The picketing of the region's soviet continues.

Religious Conflict Between Groups Unsettled

AU0403163392 Ivano-Frankovsk HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 18 Feb 92 p 2

[Commentary by Oksana Rovenchak, HALYCHYNA correspondent from Dolyna: "Confrontation Continues"]

[Text] Domes of new churches are shining in the sun in many villages of Dolyna Rayon. The holy places destroyed by the Stalin and Brezhnev satraps are being restored nationwide.

Unfortunately, however, today, there are 24 settlements with a single religious structure each. The religious situation is further aggravated by the fact that no agreement on holding religious services by turns has been reached. The Ukrainian Autocephalic Orthodox Church [UAPTs] parish does not want to fulfill the decision adopted by the organs of the local power on taking turns with the believers of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church [UGKTs] in using the temples.

On 14 February, a conference took place on problems of settling relations between the two religious groups. This, as well as several previous measures, were ignored by representatives of the UAPTs. For that reason, the participants in the conference could not outline the ways for reconciliation between the two religious groups.

Scientist Proposes Ways To Normalize Economy

AU0503085292 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 6, Feb 92 p 5

[Commentary by Anatoliy Laskavyy, candidate of economic sciences: "Ungrounded Accusations"]

[Text] The government of Ukraine is now being blamed for the fact that the prices of foodstuffs have grown by a factor of between 10 and 20. The critics say that the increase should not have exceeded a factor of three or four. However, one should not forget that the prices of all products that the rural residents use in their production activity have increased by a factor of between 10 and 25. This is mainly due to the fact that Ukraine's agriculture obtains the majority of its agricultural machinery, mineral fertilizers, and tractors from republics of the former Union.

This author has always been an adherent of stringent control on the upper limit of prices, even in conditions of a privatized economy and competition between producers. The need for such an approach to price formation in our conditions is prompted, first and foremost, by common sense and by the experience of foreign countries. For example, in Canada, where everything is privatized and competition is not limited by anything, when the level of profitability reaches 200 percent, the case of such a producer goes for examination to a tribunal for questions of competition policy. In the future, when our own currency is in circulation, such a price policy alone can save Ukraine's economy.

Unfortunately, too many laws are presently being adopted in Ukraine, laws that are not and cannot be effective. For example, the Supreme Council of Ukraine adopted a law on the priority development of rural areas. However, this law is dead. I doubt very much that it will rise from the dead. Any law can only begin to be effective if its fulfillment is backed by financial, material, and other resources. In order to ensure the priority development of the village, it is at least necessary to introduce equivalent prices for agricultural products and all other products that are used by the peasants in their production activity and everyday life. Otherwise this will only be a humiliation for agricultural laborers.

How is such equivalency achieved in developed countries? For example, in the United States, annual state subsidies in the agrarian sector constitute about $46 billion. The corresponding estimate for the Common Market countries is $44 billion. Iceland provides between 40 and 60 percent of the prime cost of agricultural products in subsidies. At the same time, in our country some deputies believe that the adoption of the Law on the Privatization of Land may even lead to the overproduction of cheap agricultural products. The Supreme Council of the republic must decide: Either agriculture is subsidized (and from what sources) or free prices must be introduced. Many deputies see the protection of the Ukrainian economy in introducing our own currency and accuse the government of delaying this measure. However, our own money will not rescue the republic's economy unless this money is protected by legislation. However, there is no law on the protection of Ukraine's own currency. The government of Ukraine does not even have a moral right to put Ukraine's own money into circulation unless such laws are adopted by the Supreme Council.

Nor must we forget that several million specialists from various regions of Ukraine cut timber, extract oil, gold, and so on in Russia. This mass of people annually brings to Ukraine millions of "wooden" rubles that devastate our economy. If this situation continues when we have our own money, this money will have the same fate as rubles. One's own currency should not be introduced until its rate of exchange is established, new prices estimated, and so on.

In conditions when coupons are in use, 80 percent of commodities, like before, do not find their way to stores, but go to the black market and commodity exchanges. In my opinion, here, too, the parliamentarians must answer a legitimate question with regard to the Law on the Commodity Exchange. This law does not specify the circle of commodities, in particular, consumer goods, that must not be sold by commodity exchanges. Consequently, these goods pass by stores and past the consumer and continue on their way to exchanges, where they account for 75 percent of the turnover. Nor does this law forbid monopolism at exchanges. So, what kind of exchanges are they?

There cannot be a market economy unless laws are adhered to. The laws in our country are not fulfilled because there is no differentiation of power. This power has remained unchanged since the times of totalitarianism. No government is capable of improving the situation under such conditions and will only be held as a scapegoat. Before the law on the transition to market relations is adopted, it is necessary to pass a law on the differentiation of power at all administrative levels of the republic by way of elections or by way of nomination of its first leaders by the institution of president.

The law on privatization will also remain dead if it is adopted in the form in which it was recently discussed. It will only be effective jointly with the law on competition: The privatization of land, industrial production, the sphere of trade, and so on must begin virtually at the same time and proceed in two stages. At the first stage, the state farms, collective farms, state enterprises, and shops must be replaced by collective-cooperative societies. This must be effected by way of transferring their property to laborers without charge. Free privatization must be completed by this coming spring.

At the second stage, when our own currency stabilizes and when some of the producers go bankrupt as a result of competition, it will become possible to raise the question of buying off their property and means of production. Let us recall that in foreign countries, too, primary privatization was always carried out free of charge and, as a rule, over a short period of time. For example, A. Lincoln gave land to future farmers for a symbolic payment. Today, the property of the former GDR is being privatized practically free of charge.

Belarus

Leaders Appeal to Yeltsin Over Supplies

MK0403140092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Mar 92 p 3

[Letter from S. Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, and V. Kebich, chairman of the Belarus Council of Ministers, to Russian President B. Yeltsin dated 13 February 1992, No. 14/4 and carried under the "Document" rubric: "'We Ask You To Give Instructions'"]

[Text] To Russian President B.N. Yeltsin

On supplies of material resources from the Russian Federation to the Republic of Belarus in 1992

Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich!

For many years the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation have cooperated closely in the economy and in developing the republics' scientific and technical potential. This cooperation is above all backed up by mutual deliveries of production and technical output, consumer goods, and material resources.

However, at present an extremely grave situation is developing in the republic with regard to deliveries to consumers of metal output, timber, coal, other raw material resources, and spare parts from Russian suppliers.

Thus, under the intergovernmental agreement, Russia is to supply 1.25 million tonnes of rolled ferrous metal, 988,000 tonnes of the quotas have been received and assigned [prikrepit] to suppliers, but contracts to supply only 619,000 tonnes, that is, 50 percent, have been concluded. The Cherepovets, Magnitogorsk, and Orsko-Khalilovo metal combines have refused to conclude contracts for 148,000 tonnes, 64,000 tonnes, and 47,000 tonnes respectively.

The shortfall in cold-rolled sheet metal, lack of which may result in the total stoppage of tractor, motor vehicle, and feed-harvesting equipment production, as well as other output, is causing particular concern. The aforementioned production units are being supplied with only 10-20 percent of their requirements.

Some 238,000 tonnes of steel pipes are to be supplied by Russia, 205,000 tonnes of the quota have been received and assigned to suppliers, and contracts have been concluded for 138,000 tonnes, or 68 percent. The Volga pipe plant, the Taganrog metallurgical plant, the Chelyabinsk pipe-rolling plant in Viksa (Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast), and the Polevskiy pipe plant (Sverdlovsk Oblast) are refusing to conclude contracts to supply 35,000 tonnes, 32,000 tonnes, 22,000 tonnes, and 8,000 tonnes respectively.

Although quotas for the supply of nonferrous metals were allocated in accordance with the volumes envisaged by the intergovernmental agreement with Russia, most supplier enterprises are refusing to conclude contracts, demanding output from Belarus in exchange on barter terms.

They include the "Uralelektromed" combine (19,700 tonnes), the Irkutsk aluminum plant (6,400 tonnes), the Krasnoyarsk aluminum plant (4,900) tonnes, and the Nadvoitskiy aluminum plant (Karelia, 7,000 tonnes).

No contracts have been concluded for zinc, lead, tin, copper, and cobalt and contracts for only 35 percent and 46 percent of the required volume of primary aluminum and aluminum sheeting respectively have been concluded.

There is a similar situation with regard to deliveries of timber; the intergovernmental agreement stipulates a quota of 1.112 million cubic meters of timber or 69 percent of the planned figure for previous years, 812,000 cubic meters of which are centralized deliveries.

However, the "Roslesopttorg" firm has allocated a quota of only 581,000 cubic meters and assigned it to territorial supply and sales organizations, which have in turn failed to fully issue suppliers with plan documents in connection with a refusal to present resources. The result is that the republic has concluded contracts with suppliers for only 241,000 cubic meters of industrial timber or 30 percent of the plan.

A similar situation is developing with lumber. Contracts have been concluded for 189,000 cubic meters—or 42 percent of the plan—out of the 450,000 cubic meters for centralized allocation.

Suppliers in Vologda, Kaluga, Sverdlovsk, and Perm Oblasts and the Komi Republic are refusing to conclude contracts, demanding barter in exchange.

As a result of lack of coordination in the decisions adopted among planning organs, in particular the "Roslesopttorg" wholesale and intermediary firm, territorial sales organizations, and suppliers, dispatch of timber to the republic was totally disrupted in the first quarter of the year.

Frequent appeals to the "Roslesopttorg" firm and senior officials' trips to the localities have borne no fruit.

Consumers' coal supplies are causing particular concern. Under the intergovernmental agreement Russia has allocated the republic a quota of 934,000 tonnes of coal in 1992.

However, coal suppliers (the "Rostovugol" Production Association, Intauglesbyt, Kuzbassuglesbyt, Bashkiruglesbyt, and the "Krasnoyarskugol" Production Association—the Borodinskiy mine) are still failing to conclude contracts because of the lack of licenses to export coal from Russia. Moreover, it is planned to supply former Union enterprises and organizations that have switched to the republic's jurisdiction with 50 percent of the 1991

planned deliveries of coal at contract prices. The contract price is 1,873 rubles per tonne (the 1991 list price was R40 per tonne).

In addition by means of commodity-exchange operations the "Bellesbumprom" wholesale intermediary firm has concluded contracts to supply 53,000 tonnes of Kuznetsk coal (the "Araks" cooperative in Belovo, Kemerovo Oblast, and the "Sanko" joint-stock company in Kemerovo). However, this coal is not being delivered because of the lack of a license to export coal from Russia.

In January the republic failed to receive from Russia 29,000 tonnes (57.2 percent) of coal. Coal stocks are dropping drastically and the population and municipal enterprises are suffering particularly badly. High release [otpusknyye] prices for coal may cause the population to be left without coal altogether since oblispolkoms [oblast soviet executive committees] and the population itself are unable to buy it.

Many enterprises have come to a standstill because of a lack of material and technical resources. An emergency situation has developed in labor collectives. The upshot is that irreparable damage is being inflicted on both republics' economy.

The Belarus Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers ask you, Boris Nikolayevich, in accordance with the agreement of 27 January 1992 and the intergovernmental agreement, to give the necessary instructions for urgent steps to be taken to assign the allocated quotas of this output to suppliers, supply spare parts through existing ties, conclude contracts, and lift the restrictions on supplying output to the Republic of Belarus. For our part, we are immediately taking the requisite steps to conclude contracts and supply output to the Russian Federation.

Respectfully,

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, chairman of Belarus Supreme Soviet
V. Kebich, chairman of Belarus Council of Ministers

[Dated] 13 February 1992, No. 14/4

Shushkevich Critical of CIS Military Documents

OW0403202092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking today (March 4) at a press conference in Minsk, the chairman of the Belarussian parliament, Stanislav Shushkevich, was extremely critical of the way the work on CIS military documents was going on, in particular the formulation of basic military principles for the Commonwealth. The reason, in his opinion, was that the General Staff of the CIS Armed Forces, which was in charge of the work, was "unable to change its way of thinking."

Shushkevich thought the withdrawal of strategic forces from Belarussian territory might take longer than the planned two or three years, since the operation would cost "a lot of money which nobody will pay."

In his view the agenda for the forthcoming CIS summit in Kiev had more issues on it than such a meeting could cope with in a single day and supported the earlier suggestion that the meeting be extended to two days.

Shushkevich condemned the intention of people's deputies of the former USSR to hold a congress on March 17 describing it as an absurd idea put forward by a "group of steeled partocrats."

He called the Ostankino TV center a "propaganda department" which Belarus would no longer finance because some of its programs were abusive.

Shushkevich: Upcoming CIS Summit Not Easy

LD0503065192 Moscow TASS in English 0640 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Report by BELTA correspondents Vladimir Glod and Aleksandr Kryzhanovski]

[Text] Minsk, March 5 TASS—The oncoming summit of the CIS in Kiev will not be an easy one, according to Belarussian parliamentary speaker Stanislav Shushkevich. Is it diffiult to solve political problems at one stroke as "we are all hostages of our history, to a certain extent," he told reporters here late on Wednesday [4 March].

"One cannot remain indifferent to the large-scale bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh. We shall, most evidently, have to settle the issue of sending observers there to clear up the situation," he added.

Shushkevich on Referendum, Ostankino Channel

LD0503001292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The opposition in Belarus is insisting that the highest organs of power of the Supreme Soviet and the government should be replaced. To this end, the Belarus Popular Front is collecting signatures in favor of holding a referendum. Hardly anyone in the republic is in any doubt that the requisite number of signatures will be obtained. Stanislav Shushkevich will not append his signature to the demand for a referendum.

[Correspondent A. Parfenenkov] He takes a dim view of the referendum about fresh parliamentary elections and the resignation of the government. But it is high time that the Supreme Soviet was reorganized, its chairman stressed. Yet again journalists asked whether the CIS would survive. [video shows A. Zhuk asking a question at the news conference]

[Zhuk] Your forecast for the forthcoming meeting of CIS leaders in Kiev: What can be expected from it? Will our delegation from the Republic of Belarus again raise the question of fines for failing to make contractual deliveries—moreover, by a factor of 10?

[Shushkevich] You know, fines are a matter for the meeting of heads of governments. Let us put it that way. It is an economic matter, and it has to be tackled by professionals. So allow me not to go into that issue. There must be a mechanism. Incidentally, it seems to me that that situation is, in general, improving. A legal mechanism is being developed. Decrees are being issued in Russia, as well as decisions by our Council of Ministers here, to the effect that that idea should work—that is, the compulsory nature of deliveries and of honoring contractual relations. It must work. But, of course, the meeting cannot be confined to these questions. I think that the meeting will not be an easy one. We have sufficient brains and tact to draw up concrete documents in the spirit of the accord that was reached on 14 February in Minsk.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your attitude toward a single CIS information space? Specifically, will Belarus finance the Ostankino First Channel?

[Shushkevich] What we need now is either that your First Channel draws the right conclusions and will, in general, be similar to those information services which can present programs impartially, or we, naturally, will not support it.

Supreme Soviet Statement on Referendum Drive

LD0503101392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2205 GMT 4 Mar 92

["Belarus Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers Statement"—TASS headline]

[Text] Minsk, 5 Mar (BELTA-TASS)—The Belarus Supreme Soviet Presidium and Council of Ministers made a statement on 4 March. It notes that "under cover of democratic transformations, attempts are being initiated to increase social tension and confrontation within society." What this primarily refers to are the signatures being gathered within the republic for a petition in support of a referendum on the dissolution of the Belarus Supreme Soviet.

In this situation, stresses the document, "endeavoring to demonstrate that the Supreme Soviet and Council of Ministers of the republic are solely to blame for the collapse of the economy and the drop in people's living standards is nothing other than an attempt to weaken state power and deepen the crisis."

The statement notes that the drive for structural perestroyka of the economy creates reliable prospects for the complete integration of the republic into the world community and creates the prerequisites for an economic upturn. "However, it is precisely all this that does not satisfy those who strove for power but failed to achieve it. Certain leaders of social and political movements and parties issue calls in the form of ultimatums for the existing structures of state power to resign via a referendum."

The address to the citizens of Belarus ends with a call "to be sensible and not to misuse freedom and democracy to the detriment of economic and political stability in the sovereign Republic of Belarus."

Kebich Cited on Republic's Economic Policy

LD2902164692 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian 2230 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] A meeting between Vyachaslav Kebich, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, and the local Soviets' employees took place in the government building. The prime minister, in a rather expressive manner, spoke about the upheavals of forming the CIS.

[Words indistinct], stressed Vyachaslav Kebich, some members of the Commonwealth found the way to put pressure on states which manufacture finished produce. Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Russia are for selling raw materials and carriers of energy at world prices. The republic's government must work out a totally different doctrine of the state policy directed first of all at personal survival and changing orientation in relations with other states. The main task today is to look for oil. Belarus will possibly in the near future have to buy oil from Kuwait and the Arab Emirates. The other problem is grain. We are short today of 4.5 million tonnes of grain for feeding animals. The easiest way out is to slaughter the animals and the most difficult one is to find the grain.

As for the reasons for the budget tension Vyachaslav Kebich said: We did not know that we would have to finance maintenance of the Army and that such a huge amount of money would be needed for internal and border troops and customs. Belarus is left face to face with the Chernobyl disaster. While, according to the old calculations, 17 billion rubles was needed for liquidating the aftermath of the accident, now the cost of construction has gone up tenfold.

When asked about taxes, the prime minister answered that the taxation system will be changed at the parliament session in March. If the budget allows it, the tax rates will be lowered. A realistic timeframe is the second part of April. What does Vyachaslav Kebich think about the need of holding a referendum on the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus? It is true, the Supreme Soviet and the government made mistakes sometimes and sometimes argued, but to hold a referendum and new elections now means to draw the republic into the abyss and one should remember it.

Evacuation of Servicemen's Families Denied

LD0303093492 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian 0400 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] General (Zulfiyar Tapitbayev), deputy commander of the Transcaucasian Military District, has categorically denied a report by the Belarussian information agency, BELTA, on the evacuation of families of servicemen from Azerbaijan to Belarus. According to the press attache representative of the Azerbaijani Republic in Moscow, who cited Rasim Agayev, head of the Azerbaijan president's press service, Gen. (Tapitbayev) described this as a provocation.

At the press center of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told that they do not have information on the evacuation of families of servicemen from Azerbaijan. [words indistinct] information on Marshal of the Air Force Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, who allegedly ordered the urgent evacuation of 11,000 families of servicemen from Azerbaijan.

A representative of the Belarussian Military District press center in a telephone conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent neither denied nor confirmed the BELTA information on the arrival of families of servicemen in Minsk from Azerbaijan.

Minimum of Two Nuclear Reactors Needed

LD0403211892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1251 GMT 4 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Minsk—Belarussian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich: The republic needs two nuclear power stations as minimum. At a press conference on March 2, Myasnikovich said one tonne of oil would cost Belarus 3,200 roubles on an average now that Russia freed up prices on 40 percent of the produced oil and gas. In view of this, the republic will have to give serious thought to the construction of two nuclear power stations although the Chernobyl wounds have not yet been healed, Myasnikovich said.

Journalists were told at the press conference that money emission in Belarus will total two billion roubles in the first quarter and 2.3 billion roubles—in the second quarters. According to Myasnikovich, the government planned to pursue the tough policy of cash-free settlements so as to attract less credit resources from Russia. The Belarussian Government will also pursue a rigid credit policy: It will finance only special programmes and impose some curbs on wages.

According to government figures, the volume of industrial output in the republic in February 1992 amounted to some 95 percent over February 1991.

Russian Enterprises Announce New Oil Prices

LD0603102192 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarussian 2230 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The Belarussian oil processing plants received telegrams from Russian extracting enterprises quoting new prices on raw oil. Before, 1 tonne of oil cost 440 rubles [R]; now it is between R2,000 and R8,000.

Moldova

Parliament Criticizes Pridnestrovye Separatists

LD0403183292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 4 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A session of the republican parliament took place today at which the situation in Pridnestrovye was discussed. Security Minister Plugaru and Internal Affairs Minister (Antach) told the deputies that the situation in the region remains quite complex, especially in the village of (Kochiyely), where armored vehicles were used against civilians yesterday. There are dead and wounded following clashes with guardsmen and Cossacks. The leaders of the illegal republic are fanning up mass psychosis, stirring up antipopular feelings, and scaring people with a nonexistant threat posed by the Moldovans.

Therefore, it was decided to set up a commission to prepare a draft appeal to leaders of foreign states on the Moldovan Parliament's attitude to the illegal and antipopular actions by the Pridnestrovye leaders. It also was proposed that Russian-speaking deputies of the parliament should address CIS member-countries with condemnation of the separatists' actions.

At the same time, large groups of indignant people are gathering at the parliament building. In conversation with your correspondent, they asked to convey literally the following to millions of our viewers: We have nothing against citizens of other nationalities; we are in favor of peaceful solution to problems, which is why we demand that the criminal actions by the leaders of left-bank region be stopped immediately, the Cossack and guard formations be disbanded, and the 14th Army stationed in Tiraspol not interfere in republican internal affairs.

Demonstrators Demand Measures in Dubossary

OW0403201692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [4 March], demonstrators who had gathered in Chisinau's central square demanded that the Moldovan government take urgent measures to stabilize the situation on the left bank of the Dnestr. They also demanded that the Cossack units be withdrawn

from that region and that voluntary formations help the Moldovan population on the left bank. The rally was attended by about one thousand people.

At about 17:00 Moscow time, around 2,000 people organized a meeting in front of the Moldovan Interior Ministry, demanding that volunteers be given arms. The demonstrators urged to help brothers across the Dnestr and accused Mircea Snegur of being a traitor. Police shielded the Ministry's building.

According to reliable sources, on Wednesday Moldova's First Deputy-Premier Andrey Sangeli, went to Dubossary, to the place of the armed conflict between the Moldovan police and the Dnestr guards.

Dnestr Vice President on Violent Situation

OW0403165292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vice-President of the Dnestr region Aleksandr Karaman told a news conference in Moscow Wednesday [4 March] that "further escalation of violence used by the Moldovan authorities in relation to the Dnestr republic may lead to the Yugoslav way of developments". Karaman said that the main reason for the disagreement between the Dnestr republic and Moldova is "the Snegur government's openly pro-Romanian policy aimed at Moldova's incorporation into Romania".

The vice-president noted that the number of guardsmen in the Dnestr republic is no more than 1200 people, however, currently combat worker detachments are being formed there. The guardsmen are being actively supported by units of Cossack volunteers who are patrolling Dubossary.

Cease-Fire Violated

AU0503180592 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1400 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Here is a dispatch from our correspondent in Chisinau, Gabriel Ionescu:

[Begin Ionescu recording] The cease-fire agreement that took effect last night was violated. This morning at around 1100 [0900 GMT] the first shooting was heard in Cosnita village. Two trucks carrying 10 guardsmen approached the house of a policeman, surrounded it, and opened fire. According to eyewitness reports, the policeman tried to resist, but finally his house was devastated and riddled with bullets. The policeman was arrested, put in a car, and taken to the concentration point of the separatists near Vadul lui Voda Bridge.

Two hours ago, an alarm was heard in the village of Cosnita. People were gathering, led by the workers of the canned food factory in this locality, to protest the actions of separatists. They called for the help of the inhabitants on the right bank of the Dnestr River and declared that they want to pursue an armed struggle to protect their lands.

Last night, a truck driver in Dubossary was shot by unknown persons. We have learned from well-informed government sources that in Cocieri, which lies on the Dnestr River, Dubossary Rayon, the situation is calm. The locality is protected by forces of the Interior Ministry of the Republic of Moldova. Separatist troops carrying military hardware, however, are concentrated nearby. The atmosphere in Tiraspol is oppressive, and the local radio is broadcasting gloomy music. In the newscast, controlled by separatists, the attitude of General (?Nitkachev), commander of the 14th Soviet Army deployed on Moldovan territory, is condemned. Nitkachev refused to involve the army in the Dubossary conflict. The Dubossary Rayon Committee of the Democratic Movement Integrity called on the president, government, and the parliament of the Republic of Moldova and requested that the Cossack troops be expelled and the separatist paramilitary troops be dismantled. Likewise, it asks for the establishment of the presidential leadership until the legal bodies of the local leadership are reestablished. The creation of a free economic zone within the Republic of Moldova is requested.

At this hour President Mircea Snegur will address the parliament to give a briefing on the situation on the left bank of the Dnestr River and on the stipulated measures to solve the conflict. I will be back with further details. [end recording]

President Snegur on Measures To Solve Conflict

OW0503174992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1657 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said that all measures taken up to now to resolve the conflict in Pridnestrov were not sufficiently constructive.

Speaking to the parliament Thursday [5 March] Snegur said that he discussed normalizing the situation and disarming the military formations on the left bank of the Dnestr in his talks with the President of the Pridnestrov Republic Igor Smirnov.

In discussing the status of Pridnestrov the president cited Kishinyov's proposal to create a free economic zone in the republic. Snegur said that this question is being discussed.

The Moldovan president said that he sent telegrams to the presidents of Russia and Ukraine asking them to address the problem of Cossack interference in Moldova's internal affairs and to remove them from the republic's territory.

Snegur stressed that he would support political methods in resolving the problems in the republic and will not allow a civil war in Moldova.

The Moldovan president also described the foreign political situation. He said that Moldova's independence is supported by the world community. Snegur especially noted the support from the administration of the United States which expressed the desire to establish diplomatic ties and mutually profitable cooperation.

The president acknowledged that Moldova is in the midst of an economic crisis resulting from severed economic ties. He said the fall in production is already 20% of what it had been in past years. Snegur believes the solution to the crisis is the re-establishment of economic ties with CIS nations, establishing business contacts with the West, and expediting the privitization process in the republic.

Snegur said that Moldova has begun forming its own army on the basis of CIS military units located on the republic's territory.

Briefs Parliament

AU0503190892 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1800 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Our Chisinau correspondent reports that the parliament proceedings opened at 1610 today. In an address of almost 50 minutes, President Mircea Snegur presented a broad report on the visits he paid to the United States and Canada and described Moldova's participation in the signing of the Helsinki Final Act. Snegur also referred to UN acceptance of Moldova as a full-fledged member and to the meetings he held with political leaders and businessmen in New York.

Regarding domestic issues, Snegur mentioned the economic difficulties and the conflict on the left bank of the Dnestr River.

Snegur briefed the deputies on a telephone conversation he had on 4 March with the separatist leader Smirnov. They agreed that all armed actions must be stopped and that they should embark on negotiations toward disarming the troops. They also discussed the creation of conditions to ensure the proper functioning of this region of the republic, under the conditions of Moldova's state structure and in strict accordance with current laws.

Tiraspol has not yet responded to the proposals made by Chisinau regarding the problem of the state. Moldova favors the establishment of a free economic zone without involving political issues.

Snegur announced that a conciliation commission has been established and that it began work at noon on 4 March.

More on Address

LD0603115192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0710 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Chishinau, 6 Mar (MOLDOVA-PRES-TASS)—The text of yesterday's parliamentary address by President Mircha Snegur was broadcast today on Moldova national radio.

Touching on his recent visit to the United States and Canada, the president pointed out that President George Bush and the U.S. Congress expressed their willingness to provide aid to Moldova during the transition to a market economy.

We have secured world recognition of Moldova's independence, Mircea Snegur said. According to him, having become a member of the United Nations, "Moldova has a right to count on help from the international organization's institutions and structures".

Unfortunately, the situation in the republic has become more complicated, the president noted. The sundering of economic ties has led to an almost 20 percent slump in industrial production. Agricultural output has fallen by almost a third. The fuel situation is critical. Mircea Snegur stressed that the day is approaching when the republic will introduce a national currency, through which Moldova will be able to protect its market.

The president said that the national army that is being created from units of the Armed Forces of the former Union is incorporating all formations on the territory of Moldova apart from the 14th Army—amounting to some 30 percent of the total number of military personnel in the republic.

Mircea Snegur spoke about what was being done to stabilize the situation in the Pridnestrovye, particularly about the content of a conversation with the leadership of the Dnestr Republic, during which the Moldovan president demanded that "military operations should be halted and illegal military formations disarmed."

Accuses Russia of Interference

AU0603120492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1115 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES 6/3/1992—MOLDOVA-PRES informs that the President of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, sent Russia's President Boris Yeltsin a telegram containing a "firm protest" against the participation of Russian citizens cossacks detachments in actions of supporting the leaders of the self-proclaimed "Dnestr Republic." It also expresses the protest to the actions taken against the Moscow representation of the Republic of Moldova. "All this, the telegram reads, represents an attempt to hamper the positive processes characterising the establishment of civilized relations among our states and peoples."

In another telegram sent to Ruslan Khasbulatov, president of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation,

President Snegur expresses his concern over the proposal that the situation in Transdniestria be discussed in committees, commissions as well as in the next week's meeting of the Presidium of Russia's Supreme Soviet. Such an act, in President Snegur's opinion, represents a violation of the Alma-Ata Declaration concerning the mutual observance of sovereignty, equality and non-interference in internal affairs by the independent states former members of the USSR. "We are amazed and worried that all this is done without the knowledge of the Republic of Moldova," President Snegur also shows in the aforementioned telegram.

Parliament Appeals for Withdrawal of Cossacks

LD0503214592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2100 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Moldovan parliament today passed an appeal to the Russian parliament demanding the withdrawal of cossack formations from the Dnestr region and another to the Ukrainian parliament with an appeal not to allow Russian Cossacks to transit Ukrainian territory.

The Dnestr region was relatively calm today.

OMON Fires on Guards, Cossacks in Dnestr

LD0603121892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] The situation in the Dnestr region: Attempts at a civilized solution to the conflict are being overshadowed by armed confrontation. Troops of the Moldovan OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment], according to reports, have fired on a picket of guards and cossacks. The threats from both sides are mutual and resolute. According to a statement by Moldovan President Snegur, the Dnestr leaders have two ways out: either remain a free economic zone within a unified Moldova or turn the left bank of the Dnestr into a kind of Karabakh. [passage omitted]

Cossacks Actions: 'Crime Against Mankind'

LD0503194292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] The Moldovan Foreign Ministry has written the CIS and CSCE Foreign Ministries on the events on the left bank of the Dnestr. Moldova's foreign office notes that, based on international documents, actions by hired cossacks in the Dnestr region are regarded as a crime against mankind. The Moldovan Foreign Ministry expressed the hope that the mentioned states will support through various means the Moldovan people's aspiration to live in peace and accord on their immemorial lands.

Second Cease-Fire Protocol Concluded

AU0603090792 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0500 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Here is a telephone report received last night from Chisinau by our correspondent Gabriel Ionescu.

[Begin Ionescu recording] The proceedings of the joint Conciliation Commission regarding the situation on the left bank of river Nistru ended late last night. The negotiations took place in (?Holercan) on the right bank of the Nistru. The delegation of the Republic of Moldova was headed by Deputy Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli, while the delegation of the separatists was led by Grigore Maracuta. Protocol number two was concluded, which notes that the first agreement was observed on the whole. At the same time, it is admitted that a resident in an automobile was shot at in Dubasary. The driver died from his wounds.

At the same time, it is noted that the house of a policeman was attacked in the village of Cosnita. Other incidents also took place. Although no additional examination is needed on the part of the joint investigation groups, in order to continue efforts to normalize the situation, the following measures are envisaged:

—Bridges and barricades should be unblocked and transportation ensured by 7 March;

—The actions of the rayon police section currently deployed in Cocieri and of the Dubasary Militia Section of the separatists shall be coordinated in order to ensure pubic order and prevent crimes. [end recording]

Gunfire Continues

LD0603135192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] It looks as if the situation in the Dnestr region is getting more stable. Our Tiraspol correspondent Gennadiy Varfolomeyev reports on the situation:

[Varfolomeyev] On 5 March the conciliatory commission of Moldova and the Dnestr region held a second round of talks at the government dacha in (Galerkany). Protocol No. 2 was signed. According to the protocol, it was decided to unblock bridges on both sides and ensure the movement of motor transport by 7 March. Activities of the rayon police branch in the village of Kochiyery will be coordinated with militia in Dubossary.

After the Dnestr delegation to Dubossary returned from the talks, an exchange of fire started, which resulted in two guardsmen being wounded. The dam of the Dubossary hydroelectric power station came under fire from a large-caliber machine gun from the right bank of the Dnestr. The military unit stationed in the northeastern part of Dubossary was attacked. Soldiers on guard were fired upon. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

A rally and the funerals of those who died in the Dubossary conflict will take place on 6 March. The dead will be buried in the town center—at the War Memorial alongside the remains of soldiers who died in the Great Patriotic War.

Cesium Capsule Could Contaminate 'All Moldova'

MK0603074192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Natalya Pachegina, Aleksandr Tago, and Igor Rotar: "Dnestr Republic: Radioactive Cesium Ampoule Stolen. Enough To Turn All Moldova Into a Contaminated Cemetery"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] On 2 March, after a civil defense troop unit in Dubossary was captured (by armed formations of the Moldovan People's Front according to the Dnestr Republic, by local residents according to Chisinau), four containers of radioactive cesium were taken from there in a truck belonging to a mobile chemical workshop.

As a spokesman for the command of the civil defense troop unit—who wished to remain anonymous—disclosed, each container held two capsules of radioactive cesium. The unit command warned that the capsules should not be removed under any circumstances. Nevertheless, one of them was taken. The vehicle was returned to the unit three hours later.

As yet neither the Moldovan authorities nor the Dnestr authorities are confirming the presence of all the capsules.

A single capsule is enough to cause the radioactive contamination of all Moldova.

Missing Cesium Found

LD0503192392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent S. Fateyev on events in Moldova; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] An arbitration commission has decided to establish a direct hot line of communication between Kishinev and Tiraspol and to examine the problem of exchanging detainees taken on both sides and withdrawing armed formations from the conflict zone. However, the tense confrontation is not easing. Within 15 minutes of the signing of the documents, news of which had not yet reached Dubossary, a driver employed by the local electricity network was gravely injured by a round of automatic fire when he was ambushed in his official vehicle at the entrance to the town. He died in the hospital in the evening. Sporadic shooting was heard in Kochier village. Supporters of the Moldovan People's Front and local residents who have armed themselves with weapons taken from the unit have taken up positions here, at a base for the civil defense regiment of the 14th Army of the CIS Armed Forces.

News of a fresh outrage emerged today: The people who stole the regiment's weapons and military equipment also took a special vehicle carrying containers of radioactive cesium from the chemical protection department. The military had no idea where it was for some hours. It was later found abandoned in the middle of the village and returned to the unit. What condition are the containers in? Are the capsules containing the lethal chemical intact? At the time of filing our report to the studio, nobody could answer these questions.

Turkmenistan

Details of Turkmen Gas Supply Protocol Revealed

Includes Transcaucasia, Not Ukraine

LD0503220892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Details of the conflict over the end to Turkmen gas supplies to Ukraine were revealed today:

[Correspondent V. Vinogradov] Turkmenistan's permanent representation announced the signing of a protocol on supplying Turkmen gas to the Transcaucasian Republics and Georgia. The document determined the volumes of supplies to each Republic. Payments will be made at world prices in dollars on a clearing basis. The sides undertake the responsibility to ensure the transit of gas across their territory, regardless of political differences. An arbitration tribunal of gas industry leaders is being organized to resolve disputes and will impose sanctions against violators. However, Ukraine remains outside the protocol. Turkmenistan switched off gas supplies to Ukraine after a two-month payment deficit and after Prime Minister Fokin's instructions to cease food supplies to Turkmenistan. With the world gas price at $80 per 1,000 cubic meters, Ukraine was asked to pay 800 rubles. However, it does not wish to give more than 30 rubles, which is unacceptable to Turkmenistan's suppliers. For the moment, it seems Ukraine is adhering to its opinion but is getting no gas.

To Receive Commodities

OW0503165992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Moscow, March 5, representatives of Turkmenistan and of the three Transcaucasian republics signed an agreement on the supplies of Turkmen gas to Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia.

According to this agreement, Turkmenistan will supply Georgia with 5.2 billion cubic meters [c.m.], Azerbaijan—with 4.2 billion c.m. and Armenia—with 5.2 billion c.m. of natural gas. In exchange for gas, Ashkhabad will receive more than a hundred commodity items from the Transcaucasian republics, including electric engineering and chemical-industry equipment, and also consumer goods and food stuffs.

Accounts between Turkmenistan and the Transcaucasian republics will be settled at world prices, in U.S. dollars and on a clearing basis. (Presently, 1,000 cubic meters of gas cost 85.00 U.S. dollars on the world market—IF [INTERFAX]). The sides have committed themselves not to complicate the transit shipments of gas through their territories.

Niyazov Outlines Tasks of Democratic Party

OW2802001392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of Turkmenistan, Chairman of the Democratic Party Saparmurad Niyazov called on its members to amass the experience of parliament on the example of foreign democratic parties, the manager of the political council of the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan [DPT] Kurban Agaliyev told "INTERFAX" after a meeting Wednesday [4 March] with Niyazov and members of the political council. Niyazov also said that they must develop a concept of the organization's work, in particular, the fight for authority among the population. The Chairman believes that in order to do this they must strengthen the role of party newspapers and journals.

Niyazov proposed that a draft of a new constitution be discussed in the party committees and the plenum set for April and introduce proposals to the legal organs of the Republic.

The political council of the DPT told "INTERFAX" that the party has nearly 52 thousand members, 48 thousand of them are former communists.

The founding congress of the DPT was held December 16, 1991 right after the last congress of the former communist party of Turkmenistan.

The DPT will be registered on March 3.

Niyazov on Talks With Kuwaiti Finance Minister

LD0203134492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1005 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] London 28 Feb, KUNA—In a press interview published here today, the president of Turkmenistan, Saparmurad Niyazov, emphasized his country's keenness on developing its relations with Kuwait, particularly as there were joint characteristics between the two countries.

In the interview he gave to SAWT AL-KUWAIT which was published here today, Niyazov said that the Kuwaiti people are very humane as they try to help the others while they are trying to heal the wounds of the Iraqi aggression.

After his meeting with Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasir al-Rawdan, who visited Turkmenistan yesterday, he added that Kuwait and Turkmenistan wish to extend the bridges of friendship and cooperation. He pointed out that their discussion concentrated on developing the political and economic relations.

The president of Turkmenistan said that during his meeting with the Kuwaiti delegation headed by the finance minister he conveyed his country's sincere wishes for the Kuwaiti people and their freedom and

national sovereignty, and he called for the return of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war and detainees from the prisons of the Iraqi regime.

Iran Extends $50 Million in Credits to Republic

LD0503235692 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2042 GMT 5 Mar 92

[From the "External Economic Relations" section]

[Text] Iran intends to extend an interest-free credit of 50 million dollars to Turkmenistan to purchase Iranian goods. This was announced on March 4 in the course of a meeting between Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Niyazov by Chairman of Central Bank of Iran Dr Adeli, who was in Ashkhabad on a one-day working visit. The credit is extended for a term of 5 years.

According to Dr Adeli, the main aim of his visit is to precipitate the solution of questions connected with the implementation of earlier agreements between Iran and Turkmenistan on trade cooperation. Informed sources say that the Iranian side has proposed to Turkmenistan to buy some goods, in particular, motorcars, at prices lower than those established by Russia for analogous goods, proceeding from the current rate of exchange of the ruble to the dollar. As a result of the talks, Turkmenistan and Iran decided to set up a joint chamber of commerce and organize customs services on cross-border areas.

Correspondent Complains of Restricted Access

PM2802124792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Vladimir Kuleshov report: "Government House: Do Not Let Correspondents In!"]

[Text] Ashkhabad—A troubled colleague from TRUD came to see me: "What is going on? We are simply being turned away from the main entrance of the presidential palace with the words: Your Moscow credentials are no law unto us now, you have to apply for general permits..."

That sort of thing did not happen even in the most rampant days of stagnation. I have already been hearing bitter complaints from more than one correspondent in the republic to the effect that representatives of Moscow newspapers have essentially found themselves alienated and isolated from broad information and the most interesting events connected with the revival of Turkmenistan and its emergence in the international arena. Because fighting your way into Government House and holding an interview with a presidential council staffer has become a problem. That is what has been happening for six weeks now, but none of my colleagues can understand why it is happening. Nor did I until I spoke to A. Orazdurdyyev, the president's press secretary. "We do not have central newspapers any more," he said. "You correspondents are now in the same situation as everyone else, you do not have preferential treatment."

But who is talking about preferential treatment? After all, this is a question of the possibility of obtaining current, detailed information from the president's press service, which is obliged—as was intended when it was formed—to play the role of coordinator and organizer of meetings between journalists and people of interest—visitors and local people—and give own correspondents preliminary information about what the week will bring. But this is not happening, nor is it expected for the time being.

I tried to tell President S. Niyazov about this at a republic Supreme Soviet session just held.

"That cannot be..." was his unexpected response.

It stands to reason that it cannot be. And indeed it must not be, because people have never treated journalists like this in any other civilized state, and Turkmenistan wants to be one.

Need it be said that the president's relations with the press and the correspondents of nonlocal publications are primarily determined by his press secretary? I would wager that Niyazov has no idea that Orazdurdyyev has exceeded his authority and started deciding who is to be summoned to the presidential palace and who is not, and has secured the right—just like the worst secretary for propaganda—to mete out the information leaving the republic.

Uzbekistan

Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin Visits Tashkent

Signs Protocol on Ties

OW0403182892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, who arrived in Tashkent on Wednesday [4 March], said that the purpose of his visit was to broaden comprehensive cooperation between the two countries. He also said that as a full-fledged member of the world community, Uzbekistan should play an adequate role in the world and acquire strong influence in tackling international issues.

Hikmet Cetin expressed confidence that Uzbekistan would soon evolve into a well-developed state and that Turkey was ready to assist it in this in every possible way.

On Wednesday, Uzbekistan and Turkey signed a protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations. Also, there were talks with representatives of the ministries for foreign trade, defence and public education.

On March 5, Hikmet Cetin will meet with Uzbek President Islam Karimov.

Meets With President

OW0503163792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbekistan wants to follow the Turkish model of economic development, President Islam Karimov said at a meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin in Tashkent Thursday [5 March]. Karimov pointed out that the Uzbek people "are open-hearted toward their Turkish brothers and grateful for disinterested aid".

At the same time Karimov stressed that foreign aid would not resolve all of the republic's problems. "First and foremost, it depends on us", the president said.

The Turkish embassy will open in Uzbekistan in 10 days.

Mutalov Supports Turkish 'Path' of Development

LD0303194692 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 1730 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Report on interview with Uzbekistan Prime Minister Abdulhasim Mutalov by correspondent Lengyel Miklos; place and date not given; Mutalov speaks in Russian with superimposed Hungarian translation—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] [Miklos] [passage omitted] I asked the prime minister if they will choose the Turkish or the Iranian way of development, that is, will they set out toward the West or toward the East. My other question related to this was that plenty of nationalities are living in Uzbekistan today, there is a significant Russian minority, and plenty of Tajik and other Muslim ethnic groups, the relations of which with the Uzbek majority are often very tense. Can a civil war be avoided in Uzbekistan under such circumstances?

[Mutalov] "The question is very interesting, very timely these days. First, I can perhaps speak about the cooperation within the framework of the party, this question is likely to particularly interest a lot of people. Somehow we have lived together for 74 years. [passage omitted] As far as the protection of the national minorities is concerned in Uzbekistan, for that is how I interpreted your question, I think we will create in Uzbekistan all the preconditions and conditions which will make it possible for the various peoples, nations to live in our country in the same way as in their own homeland. We receive a great deal of similar questions. The policy of our president and government is to maintain peace and welfare and to give the people enough to eat in such difficult circumstances, to guarantee stability. [passage omitted]

"Therefore, my most important task, and I touch wood, is to preserve this situation in our republic, and to extinguish the flames somehow if any trouble occurs.

"Now I would answer your first question, i.e. what path of development should Uzbekistan choose. We like Turkey's path of development. It is known that we have been establishing close links with this country. [passage omitted] Apart from this, we have links with Pakistan and Iran, too. Our president is to visit China soon. All this makes it possible for us to say that we maintain good relations with all our neighbors on the basis of mutual respect, in accordance with the peoples' traditions, in the interest of peace to be maintained in the region."

[Miklos] One of the most interesting questions at the news conference was asked by the Budapest correspondent of the Israeli HA'ARETZ. He asked if Yasir 'Arafat had been in Tashkent recently, because earlier he had visited Kazakhstan. Therefore he is unlikely to have missed Tashkent, which is a religious center for Central Asian Muslims.

[Mutalov] "I have to say that before I became prime minister I had been a deputy premier and earlier a minister. I have not met 'Arafat in Tashkent. I remember one thing. There were some articles on this in the papers. We will establish ties with all the countries which guarantee relations based on mutual respect, sovereignty and maintaining peace."

Israeli Ambassador's Tashkent Talks Reviewed

PM2702155192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov report: "Ambassador A. Levin Arrives in Tashkent"]

[Text] Tashkent—The official ceremony of exchanging notes on establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Israel was held in Tashkent 21 February.

Arye Levin, Israeli ambassador in Moscow, has come here for this reason; he held talks with republic leaders, notably with Foreign Minister Ubaidulla Abdurazzaqov and Atkhambek Fazylbekov, mayor of Tashkent.

All the fundamental questions involved in opening a second Israeli embassy- after Moscow—on the territory of the former USSR were discussed, as were the provision of housing for diplomats and communications and other resources to ensure that the activity of the mission's workers will be fruitful. In the near future an appropriate building is to be chosen for the mission in order to set up the work of the consular service to begin with.

During the talks in Tashkent, various aspects of the two states' mutual relations were discussed. Minister Ubaidulla Abdurazzaqov stated on behalf of his government that Uzbekistan aims to collaborate on the basis of equal rights with all the countries of the world; the recent visits here by U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Al Sa'ud, for example, and the establishment of diplomatic relations with these countries testifies to this. At the same time, the Uzbek minister expressed concern in connection

with the recent flareup of tension in the Near East, and he stressed that all military-political and other disputes must be resolved at the negotiating table.

In his turn, Ambassador Arye Levin spoke in favor of continuing the Arab-Israeli peace talks. Apropos of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Uzbekistan and Israel, the sides noted with satisfaction: This is a result of the deepening process of direct ties in the sphere of economics, science, and culture.

Mutalov on Hungary Visit; Ties Established

LD0303190992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1613 GMT 3 Mar 92

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Zhirnikin]

[Text] Budapest, 3 March (TASS)—The official visit to Hungary by A. Mutalov, prime minister of Uzbekistan, ended today with the signing of a basic treaty on Hungarian-Uzbek cooperation. A protocol on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries also came into force.

During the visit, the head of the Uzbek government held talks with Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky, and was received by President Arpad Goncz.

Hungary has maintained ties with the former USSR republics, and now with the countries of the CIS, for many years now, A. Goncz said in a conversation with the Uzbek guest. Naturally, in the first place this concerns Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, is due to the country's geographical position. Nevertheless, Budapest also has an interest in strengthening ties with other countries of the CIS. Within the framework of humanitarian aid to the member countries of the CIS, "Hungary is already prepared to send its specialists to Uzbekistan. At the same time, the Uzbek side should determine in which fields it is reckoning on Hungarian help," A. Goncz noted.

A. Mutalov stressed that Uzbekistan has an interest first of all in expanding economic and commercial ties with Hungary. The Hungarian experience "is highly valued in Uzbekistan if only because Hungary is one of those countries of East Europe which has been able to go over to a market form of economic management with the fewest losses."

During the prime minister of Uzbekistan's stay in Hungary an agreement on trade between the two countries was signed. This document provides for payments for reciprocal deliveries in freely convertible currency. This year, trade turnover between Hungary and Uzbekistan should reach $100 million on each side. Uzbekistan intends to supply Hungary first of all with cotton and chemical industry items, receiving in exchange foodstuffs, light industry goods, and Ikarus buses.

Uzbekistan's deliveries to Hungary will in no way affect the economic commitments assumed by our country within the framework of the CIS, A. Mutalov told the ITAR-TASS correspondent in a brief interview. Our Hungarian partner can also rest assured that we are able to fulfill our export commitments exactly in keeping with the documents which have been signed.

Congress of Central Asian Muslims Begins

LD2902173492 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0600 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Today the 5th extraordinary Congress of the Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan started its work in Tashkent. The congress was opened with a reading from the Koran. Khaji Akbar Turazoda, chairman of the Tajikistan board of Muslims chairing the congress, spoke on the agenda. The presidium was elected.

[Word indistinct] Mukhammad Sharif [word indistinct], chairman of the organizational committee of the congress spoke on the preparatory work. Bakhtiyar Nazarov, adviser to the president, read the congratulatory message of Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to the participants of the Congress of the Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

In line with the congress's agenda, changes to the rules of the religious directorate, its examination, and similarly the question of the election of the new mufti of the religious directorate was also entered. An election commission was formed for holding the election.

In accordance with the agenda, His Holiness Muhammad Sadiq Muhammad Yusuf, chairman of the Religious Directorate of the Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, spoke on the period between the 4th and 5th congresses. More than 1,000 representatives of the Muslims are participating in the gathering, including guests from Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Erkin Samandarov, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Bakhtiyar Nazarov, adviser to the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan, are participating in the congress.

Further on Muslim Congress

LD2902175392 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1300 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Today in Tashkent, the capital of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the 5th extraordinary Congress of the Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan started its work. Representatives from the fraternal republics together with Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and other foreign countries participated in the congress. Among them are the 150 leaders and representatives from the religious organizations of Tajikistan.

One of the important questions on the agenda examined at the congress of the representatives of the Islam religion was the election of the chairman of the Directorate of the Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan.

Muhammad Sadiq Muhammad Yusuf was unanimously elected mufti of the Directorate of the Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan. The congress will continue its work tomorrow.

Uzbek TV, Radio To Begin Turkish Broadcasts

LD0203040992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Text] The Uzbek national television and radio company has begun half-hour broadcasts in the Turkish language. It is planned that the republic will tell foreign listeners about the sociopolitical and cultural life of Uzbekistan. The programs are being prepared by students and teachers of the Tashkent Oriental Studies Institute.

New Office To Probe Foreign Economic Crimes

LD0503182392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1420 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By UZA-TASS correspondent Irina Grebenyuk]

[Text] Tashkent, 5 Mar (TASS)—The new structure set up within the Uzbek procurator's office will investigate foreign economic crimes and coordinate the work of law enforcement bodies in this field. The new department's main aim is to protect Uzbek economic interests from corruption, embezzlement, and other abuses in foreign economic activity undertaken by state, joint, and private enterprises and various commercial structures. The new subdivision will be staffed with specialists from the public procurator's office, the Internal Affairs Ministry, and the national security service.

Karimov Establishes State Joint-Stock Association

LD0203174792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 2 Mar 92

[Text] The material and technical provision of enterprises and organizations of the republic, regardless of the forms of ownership, and the expansion of interstate commercial and economic cooperation are the tasks facing the Uzbek State Joint-Stock Association for Contracts and Trade [Uzbekskaya gosudarstvennaya aktsionernaya assotsiatsiya po kontraktam i torgovli]. Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan, signed a decree instituting it.

President Appoints Leaders of Regional Councils

OW0103172792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1544 GMT 1 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan has appointed the nominees of 12 regional councils to the posts of khakims (heads of administration) in their regions. The Tashkent khakim was elected by secret ballot by city residents.

All regional leaders are directly subordinated to the president of the republic. All of them are ethnic Uzbeks and members of the People's Democratic (ex-Communist) party [CP] of Uzbekistan of which I. Karimov is chairman. In the past, all the twelve used to lead CP committees at regional or district levels.

Armenia

Government Joins Kazakh Call for CIS Summit

NC0503212592 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Statement issued by President Levon Ter-Petrosyan in Yerevan on 5 March—recorded; read by announcer]

[Text] Kazakh President Nazarbayev put forward a number of proposals during a televised speech at the beginning of March in connection with the CIS nations working to find a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

In addition, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Shushkevich, the chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, expressed their concern over developments in Nagorno-Karabakh and their interest in the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The leadership of the Armenian Republic receives with understanding the statement of the three countries, (?reconfirms) its proposals—sent in a message to CIS leaders on 27 February 1992—and calls on the leaders of all the CIS countries to immediately convene a consultative meeting of CIS leaders. We believe that a delay means more victims.

We are convinced that the noble mission of the Russian and Kazakh presidents is not yet done and through goodwill and support it will be possible to find a way to stop the bloodshed.

CSCE Resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh Welcomed

OW0603161392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1531 GMT 6 Mar 92

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" (DP) feature; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The final resolution on Nagorno-Karabakh, adopted in Prague by the February 28 session of the CSCE member-states' senior officials is a welcome document, Chief of the Armenian Foreign Ministry's European Department, Christian Ter-Stepanyan, told DP.

He said that the sides concerned have assumed specific commitments in the presence of representatives of 48 states. If they fail to honor them they will be strongly criticized, he said.

Christian Ter-Stepanyan noted that in Prague the Armenian delegation had got the legitimately elected authorities of Artsakh (the Armenian name of Nagorno-Karabakh) recognized as a full-fledged negotiating party, which had been documented.

He also said that for the first time ever, the Armenian sides' efforts had led to the recognition of Artsakh's right to self-determination by representatives of such an authoritative international forum, although the debates had led to a compromise and Artsakh was qualified as part of Azerbaijan.

Speaking about the mediatory missions, Christian Ter-Styepanyan said that during the talks Azerbaijan was making every effort to involve Turkey in this affair. It proposed that Russia and Turkey mediate in the conflict. The Armenian delegation insisted, however, that Turkey participate in the search for a solution only on a par with the rest of the CSCE members. After the US refused to mediate in the conflict, Russia remained the sole mediator.

Christian Ter-Stepanyan reaffirmed Armenia's position on the problem. He said that Armenia laid no territorial claims on Azerbaijan and favoured talks between the democratic government of the Nagorno-Karabakh republic and the leaders of Azerbaijan. "Armenia will back all of the related initiatives and do everything it can to ensure their success," he said.

He expressed hope that the Nagorno-Karabakh problem will be discussed at the next meeting of the CSCE's senior officials, scheduled for May-June, 1992.

Journalist Denies Khodzhaly 'Atrocities'

LD0503120592 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 0900 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Independent journalist Igor Burganskiy, who has returned from Nagorno-Karabakh to Yerevan, in an interview with SNARK Agency has refuted reports of atrocities by Armenians in Khodzhaly against the Azerbaijani population. In Burganskiy's opinion, the video clips from this same village distributed by Western mass media are also a fabrication. He claims that apart from himself, at the end of February no one was making videotapes in Khodzhaly. At any rate, I did not meet a single cameraman there, Burganskiy said.

'Massive' Azerbaijani Offensive Predicted

OW0403210192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1916 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Seiran Bagdasaryan [name as received], Chairman of the Armenian parliament's special commission for Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh) said speaking on national TV that one should expect a massive offensive from Azerbaijan. The agency SNARK quotes him as saying that there is every prerequisite for that: Azerbaijan has been admitted to the UN and the 336th motorized infantry regiment, which was a factor of restraint, is being removed from Stepanakert. Seiran Bagdasaryan also noted that Azerbaijan had launched a broad propaganda campaign, presenting horrifying pictures of the Armenian fighters' atrocities in Nagorno-Karabakh.

He said that all of the earlier held talks, visits and international missions ended up in mere rhetoric and

documents which do not work. Meanwhile, the most important thing—the mechanism of peaceful settlement—is missing, he said.

Turkmenistan Cuts Off Gas Pipeline Supplies

OW0503170492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 5 gas supplies to the local population and industrial enterprises were cut off in Armenia.

As IF [INTERFAX] learned at the Armenian government press center, this is due to Turkmenistan's decision to stop gas supplies to Armenia, as well as the fact that Georgia through which territory the gas pipeline is laid takes the gas destinated for Armenia.

The press center says currently, Armenia has 2 million cubic meters of gas provided mainly by the Yerevan heat and power plant. It supplies a minimum of electric power to the most needed industried, in particular, bread-baking plants and hospitals.

Power Station Low on Fuel

LD0503165592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1525 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 5 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—A dramatic situation has arisen over Armenia's power supply: There is only 24 hours of fuel left at Yerevan's heating and power station.

The population's gas supply has been cut since noon today. The fuel is being channelled into operations at Yerevan's central heating and power plant, the biggest in the republic. All Armenian industrial enterprises have ground to a halt. Selective power cuts [veyernoye otklyucheniye], when the districts of Yerevan and the republic's rayons are deprived of electric power in turn, have been extended.

As "Armenergo" General Director Feliks Akopdzhanyan explained, this very complicated situation is made worse by the fact that cars with fuel oil are standing motionless on the railway linking Yerevan with Azerbaijan.

Plant Could Supply 50 Percent of Demand

OW0503195292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1843 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The chairman of the representative committee to study the condition and coordinate operation of the Armenian nuclear power plant, government minister Vagan Chitechyan said at a press conference in Yerevan Thursday [5 March] that if the second block of the Armenian nuclear plant is started up it will cover nearly 50% of the electricity demand in Armenia; the first block is too worn out to be used. Chitechyan said 14 to 18 months is needed to launch the block.

The Chairman said, however, that the decision to start up the station must be passed by parliament. This may happen after a republic referendum on the question.

The station was closed following the December 1988 earthquake.

Growing Tension 'Threat' to Nascent Democracy

OW0303180292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has stated that the former Soviet Union continues to disintegrate despite the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the signing of dozens of documents on the settlement of relations among its member-states. Ter-Petrosyan said that an effective mechanism of implementing the agreements reached by the Commonwealth countries has not yet been created. The president spoke before a group of German Bundestag deputies led by head of the Social Democratic faction, chairman of the Socialist International Hans Vogel [name as received].

Ter-Petrosyan suggested that growing social tension poses the biggest threat to democratic reforms in the Commonwealth countries. He said that if minimal social needs of the population are not met in a relatively short period of time, it is not ruled out that adventurists and demagogs can enter the political arena in all of the Commonwealth states. Ter-Petrosyan believes this also threatens the world community.

Official Urges USSR Debt Transfer to Russia

LD0303214592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1849 GMT 3 Mar 92

[From the "External Politics" Section]

[Text] Yerevan—Chairman of the Foreign Economic Bank of Armenia says the republic should transfer its share of the USSR's foreign debt to Russia.

Board Chairman of the Armenian Foreign Economic Bank Samuel Chzmachyan also told PF [POSTFACTUM] that it can also repay its share of the USSR's foreign debt by "retaining the debt and the right to conduct currency operations, but in that case Armenia would soon become a colonial appendage of Russia". The official said Armenia's foreign debt amounts to 0.88 of the USSR's debt, i.e. some USA 723 mln [million]. It was calculated on the basis of the following indexes: the population of the republic as compared to the population of the former USSR, the average share of the Republic in the gross national product, import and export of the USSR in the past 5 years. According to the official,

Armenia would account for 1.15 if the share had been determined on the basis of population only. He said currently facilities and organisations have a total of R [ruble] 35 mln on their accounts at the Foreign Economic Bank, with private individuals accounting for another R2 mln. He also said the bank was removing all restrictions on opening foreign currency accounts.

Foreign Minister on Relations With Lebanon

LD0503111692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1007 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladislav Zhadyayev]

[Text] Beirut, 5 Mar (TASS)—We have reached agreement with the Lebanese side not only on the establishment of practical diplomatic relations and exchange of missions at a most critical time, but we have also complemented them with cooperation agreements in the political, economic, financial, and cultural fields. This was stated on Wednesday [4 March] by Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovanesyan at a news conference immediately after the completion of bilateral talks in the course of which the decision was made to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Speaking of the present situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, he said it is not founded on the question of borders or differences in the religions professed in Armenia and Azerbaijan. For many centuries, the Armenians have lived side-by-side with their neighbors, and these questions were never raised. And today, Armenia has no claims against Azerbaijan regarding borders or territories.

The crux of the problem, R. Ovanesyan pointed out, is the issue of self-determination of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and also the relations between the legally elected authority in Nagorno-Karabakh and the Azerbaijan authorities. Armenia is a third party, endeavoring to settle the conflict by peaceful means by getting Baku and Stepanakert to sit down at the negotiating table. Most regrettably, the Armenian minister stated, the Azerbaijani authorities are endeavoring to settle this problem by military means, trying to expel the native people from their own territory. For the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, this war is nothing other than self-defense, he pointed out.

On several occasions, the minister continued, Armenia has called on the international community to undertake efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem peacefully. Recently, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati visited Armenia on a mediating mission to settle the conflict between the two republics. "Today we have asked Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to assist in this area. We need to have a 1,000 years of peace and security and, in cooperation with Mr. Buwayz, we hope to solve the problem of southern Lebanon and Nagorno-Karabakh. Today, we laid firm foundations for this cooperation," R. Ovanesyan noted in conclusion.

Economic Agreement Signed With Poland

NC0303180392 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 28 Feb 92

[Text] An Armenian Government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan visited Poland between 24 and 26 February and delivered a message from Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan to President Lech Walesa.

An intergovernmental economic and trade agreement was signed between Armenia and Poland in Warsaw on 24 February.

The sides agreed to cooperate in all economic fields. A joint Armenian-Polish commission will be set up to oversee implementation of the agreement.

Deputy Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan signed the agreement for Armenia and Minister of Foreign Economic Cooperation Adam Glapinski for Poland.

The Armenian delegation held meetings with high-ranking Polish officials and business circles to discuss privatization, which is of mutual benefit. Agreement was reached to exchange experts in this field and to import medicine, grain, and other agricultural foodstuffs from Poland.

Guards Use Arms To Stop Crossings From Iran

LD0203201492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1512 GMT 2 Mar 92

[From the "Military" section]

[Text] Baku—On February 29 a duty detail of the Prishib Frontier Guard used weapons against 40 people trying to cross the border from Iran. One trespasser was wounded. On February 28 local residents damaged the warning system. After the arrival of the reserve unit the situation was brought back to normal.

Profits From AT&T System Exceed Expectations

NC0503141192 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Text] Yerevan, 27 Feb (ARMENPRES)—The RESPUBLIKA ARMENIA paper writes that the international digital communications system, with its earth-satellite station, has now been operating in Armenia for the past few months. The American AT&T company installed it.

Erik Ensen, Moscow representative of a company subsidiary, has described the installation in Yerevan as "the event of the year," adding that it is the most modern system on the international market. Armenia is the only former Soviet republic to have it.

The project, which allows direct telephone communications with Europe and the United States, cost nearly $6 million, of which $1.95 million was credited to the

Armenian Government by the Communications Ministry [not further specified]. AT&T donated the remaining $4 million.

Armenian Deputy Minister of Communications Robert Arutyunyan noted that the profit from the use of the system has exceeded expectations.

Azerbaijan

Events Reported Leading to Mutalibov Resignation

President on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD0503173392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Mar 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Anar Kadirli]

[Text] Baku, 5 Mar (TASS)—Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov does not exclude a political solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. "We are ready to sit down at the negotiating table because a further continuation of the war is impermissible," he said at the extraordinary session of Azerbaijan's parliament, which opened today. The session was convened at the initiative of the Republic's National Council to discuss the situation around Nagorno-Karabakh and in the republic as a whole.

The president also stressed that the main task of the Azerbaijani leadership and military command is to strengthen the borders and ensure the inviolability of the republic's territory and to create a well-equipped, regular army.

Ayaz Mutalibov noted that the Khodzhaly tragedy is one of the links in the chain of Armenia's aggression on Azerbaijani soil. The Azerbaijani side reports that more than 1,000 people died a few days ago during the evacuation of the civilian population from the Azerbaijani town of Khodzhaly, which was seized by Armenian armed forces.

The president said: "This happened because in the war forced upon Azerbaijan, the neighboring republic used the CIS Armed Forces as a cover, particularly the 366th regiment".

Ayaz Mutalibov briefed parliament members on his written appeal to U.S. President George Bush, in which he called for help to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict peacefully.

Demonstrators Demand Resignation

LD0603101492 Berlin ADN in German 0943 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Baku (ADN)—At least 80,000 demonstrators again surrounded the parliament building in Baku on Thursday [5 March] night and during the early hours of Friday morning. They were demanding the immediate resignation of President Ayaz Mutalibov. In their view the leadership of the country is no longer in a position to protect Azerbaijanis from Armenian attacks. According to the INTERFAX agency, the militia and special Interior Ministry units ignored orders to disperse the demonstration by force. Toward midday members of the parliament were still in the parliament building. [passage omitted]

Mutalibov Refuses To Resign

OW0603122892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Addressing an extraordinary session of the Azeri parliament on Thursday [5 March], President Ayaz Mutalibov refused to resign as the opposition is demanding. The session has continued non-stop since Thursday morning.

Mutalibov, who is viewing the developments outside the Supreme Soviet, where protesters have blocked all the exits demanding his resignation, as a coup d'etat, has asked deputies to give him three months' time to organize the effective defense of Nagorno-Karabakh. The opposition, however, maintains that the president has already exhausted his potential as the republic's leader inasmuch as he failed to translate into reality any of the compromise decisions agreed upon with the opposition.

On Friday morning the parliament accepted the resignation of Yagub Mamedov, head of the Medical Institute of Azerbaijan, who was elected Chairman of the Supreme Soviet on Thursday. He resigned after the opposition accused President Mutalibov of turning to the CIS countries for military help, and warned that the republican leaders might drag Azerbaijan into a Tbilisi-style tragedy. Mamedov said he was unwilling to take part in "this dirty game."

Meanwhile, one of the opposition leaders and head of the National Independence party, Etibar Mamedov, lay down his parliamentary mandate in protest against the "conservative and reactionary" behavior of the parliament and president.

The rally continuing outside the Azeri parliament is attended by an estimated 80,000 to 200,000 people. Speakers have said that "to Azerbaijan, every extra hour of Mutalibov's stay in power means the loss of more and more land in Nagorno-Karabakh, and more and more deaths among the peaceful civilians." The police have refused to disperse the crowd as the president ordered last night. OMON [special purpose militia detachment] reinforcements have not taken any steps to instill law and order, either—because of vigorous protests on the part of parliamentarians.

Mutalibov Resigns; Mamedov In

LD0603171192 Moscow TASS in English 1654 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] Baku March 6 TASS—Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov resigned today.

The resignation of Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov has become the major event of the extraordinary session of the republican Supreme Soviet that has been going on for two days.

Mutalibov, the first head of the independent state generally elected in September, 1991, announced his resignation at a parliament meeting this evening.

In the words of Mutalibov, he took this decision after long considerations of a possible split of society and an almost nine-hour search for a compromise between his supporters and opponents representing various parties and movements at the Azeri Supreme Soviet.

The parliament complied with Mutalibov's request and adopted a law on personal immunity of the first Azeri president. Mutalibov will receive a 10,000-rouble pension, a personal car, a countryside cottage and 10 guards.

Presidential powers have been temporarily passed over to Republican Supreme Soviet Chairman Yaqub Mamedov until the elections.

[Moscow INTERFAX in English at 1553 GMT adds the following: "The opposition led by the Popular Front of Azerbaijan demands the resignation of the republican leadership citing poor military performance of the Azeri side in Nagorno-Karabakh.

["Reports from Baku say the new chairman of the Azeri Supreme Council Yagub Mamedov who sent in his resignation Friday morning later withdrew it at the request of the deputies."]

Military Situation in Nagorno-Karabakh Updated

366th Regiment Airlifted Out

LD0603051192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0300 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Text] In an interview with INTERFAX News Agency Vasiliy Belchenko, head of the Information Department of the Transcaucasian Military District, stated that the personnel of the 366th Motorized Rifle Regiment have been completely withdrawn from Nagorno-Karabakh. According to Belchenko, the regiment was transferred on Mi-26 military helicopters to Georgia and has been disbanded.

Town 'Seized' by Military

OW0603123892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to well informed sources in Yerevan, Azeri military units seized, with the support of tanks and armored vehicles, the Armenian village of Kazanchi in the Mardakert district of Nagorno-Karabakh on Thursday [5 March] night. The village is said to be lying in ashes. The number of casualties is yet to be established, although it is known that the village was populated by nearly 250 people.

The same sources report that no fewer than 15 people, including 6 children, died in the village of Kichan in the Mardakert district, as a result of repeated attacks by the Azeris.

10 people, including 4 children, were killed during Azeri fire attacks on the district center of Mardakert and the village of Djanatag on Thursday night. Twenty others died as Karintag village in the Shusha district came under fire.

Meanwhile, the Popular Front [PF] of Azerbaijan has reported that nearly 1,600 residents of the Azeri city of Khodzhaly are kept by the Armenians as hostages. According to the PF, the Armenians executed 70 women hostages on Tuesday night.

'Unwarranted Behavior' Punished

NC0603085192 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 2000 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] In view of the escalating tension in the mountainous region in Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan's border rayons, the republic's leaders and military command headquarters are making every effort to establish a national army so Azerbaijan's sovereignty and territorial integrity can be safeguarded and the security of the people maintained.

Many of the republic's citizens have joined the ranks of the defenders of the homeland and fulfilled their sacred patriotic duty. Nevertheless, it has been recently observed that several units, which have been made up of those who have been drafted, have behaved in an unwarranted way, particularly in rayons where clashes have occurred.

It must be noted that such behavior conflicts with the requirements of morale and may lead to legal measures. Allowing this to happen when fighting is continuing further aggravates the situation.

The local procuracy organs have been instructed to cooperate with military procuracy organs to investigate and expose those involved in unwarranted behavior and to take urgent measures to have them immediately returned to their places of military service. Meanwhile, other measures are being taken to strengthen military discipline and law and order, including [words indistinct].

Army Linked With Unity Plan

LD0503132892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1100 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Report by Islam Kuliyev from Baku]

[Text] The war in Azerbaijan is spreading literally every day. Whereas until recently there were battles only in

Nagorno-Karabakh, now the fire storm has shifted to the lowland areas of Nagorno-Karabakh. Everyday Armenian armed formations shell and attack the inhabited areas of Agdamskiy, Fizulinskiy, Zangelanskiy, Geranboyskiy, and other rayons of Azerbaijan. But, as before, the center of attention is, nonetheless, the 366th Regiment stationed in Khankendy, formerly Stepanakert.

You already know of the tragedies of Khodzhaly and Malybeyli where, according to initial reports, over 3,000 people have been either killed or wounded. There is documented confirmation of atrocities by servicemen of this subunit of the CIS Armed Forces. Recently a decree was signed on its withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh, but, as ought to have been expected, a provocation allegedly followed and the regiment was halted below the town of Khankendy. Then General (Iosif Aganyan) arrived from the Transcaucasus Military District. It has been learned that, at his instruction, it has been decided to withdraw this regiment through Shusha, the last town with an Azeri population in Nagorno-Karabakh, then into Lachinskiy rayon and Gorisskiy rayon of Armenia.

According to rumors circulating in Baku, helicopter pilots from this regiment have destroyed all the artillery installations defending Shusha. Furthermore, according to official information, the regiment's personnel have handed over heavily armored Grad and Uragan installations to Armenian military formations. The regiment's new route has a dual objective: first the occupation of Shusha and then the opening of a Lachinskiy corridor for the unimpeded unification of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia. It is not difficult to guess what will follow. The new victims of this military maneuver will evidently be the final straw that will bring the people of Azerbaijan out of the deep shock that they have been in since the genocide in Khodzhaly. All the more so since assault troops have been sent in to secure the so-called withdrawal of this subunit from Azerbaijan.

According to another report, some of the troops have already been transferred by helicopter to Gyandzha, and now it is the turn of the armored equipment that is occupying combat positions near Khankendy.

Mutalibov Interviewed on Solution to Conflict

AU0403155592 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 3 Mar 92 p 6

[Interview with President Ayaz Mutalibov by Demeter Pogar; in Baku, date not given: "We Oppose Foreign Intervention"]

[Text] The war in Nagorno-Karabakh, which four years ago was still being fought with clubs and stones, has deteriorated into a war being fought with tanks and missiles. Approximately 400,000 people have been driven out of both Armenia and Azerbaijan, about half from each country. Foreign powers are also trying to stop the destruction. Demeter Pogar, the editor-reporter of the Hungarian Television "Panorama" program, interviewed Ayaz Mutalibov and asked him about the chances of a settlement.

[Pogar] Mr. Mutalibov! According to reports, Azerbaijan started a large-scale military action in Nagorno-Karabakh at the end of January. Can this conflict be solved militarily?

[Mutalibov] The situation is quite the opposite: Armed Armenian units—which we call terrorist units—forced the evacuation of some 20 Azeri villages from Nagorno-Karabakh in the last three months. We must defend our villages and lands. We cannot allow a situation in which Azeris also become refugees on Azerbaijan's territory, after all the Azeris were driven away from Armenia.

[Pogar] You allegedly submitted a new settlement proposal at the recent Azeri-Armenian foreign ministerial meeting in Moscow. What is the essence of this proposal?

[Mutalibov] We have always proposed putting an end to this useless bloodshed, to this so called inter-national conflict that has been forced upon us. Let us say things as they really are: In reality, this is a territorial conflict. In this conflict, Azerbaijan is defending its sovereignty and territorial integrity. I think that the goal of the agreement reached in Moscow—at least according to our concept—is to start working out the conditions for a cease-fire as soon as possible, in order to allow the beginning of negotiations on eliminating this problem. The major question is: What really is Nagorno-Karabakh? We refrained from abolishing the autonomy of this region for a long time, and we waited for the inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh to withdraw their decision themselves, their decision to separate from Azerbaijan. We also waited for the Armenian parliament to repeal the law annexing Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Pogar] Hasn't this taken place yet?

[Mutalibov] We have been continuously discussing this matter since 1988 but, unfortunately, the Armenian side has not made use of this opportunity. A withdrawal would have immediately eliminated the tension, and then we would have something to negotiate about. We waited as long as possible but, after the shooting down of the helicopter carrying Azeri leaders, the Azerbaijani parliament decided to destroy Nagorno-Karabakh's autonomy. The Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh then declared its republic. This was an illegal act, because the Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh did not participate in the referendum on this matter. Besides, such a referendum is illegal because the whole republic, and not only an enclave, must decide on such major issues. According to our concepts, Nagorno-Karabakh no longer has a self-governing body and the Armenians regard it as a republic. This has lead us to a dead-end and, consequently, to more and more bloodshed.

[Pogar] In your opinion, the whole republic, and not only this enclave with an Armenian majority, should decide

on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. In this case, how will you respect the right for national self-determination and self-governing bodies?

[Mutalibov] The local government is created by elected local bodies. There are five Armenian districts in Nagorno-Karabakh, and these will obviously have Armenian leadership. However, state-level self-determination is another matter. We cannot allow the Nagorno-Karabakh autonomous region to become a republic and subject to international law. I cannot believe any country would allow this.

[Pogar] Do you think that the restoration of autonomy in Nagorno-Karabakh would lead to positive results?

[Mutalibov] Parliament, the same body that also decided on abolishing the aforementioned autonomy, will have the final say in this matter. In my opinion, administrative autonomy would not be an end in itself. I also believe in cultural self-government.

[Pogar] What role do you envisage for the CIS Army in this conflict?

[Mutalibov] I oppose in principle the stationing of these forces in the area of conflict. In my opinion, the withdrawal of these troops could serve as a basis for negotiations.

[Pogar] According to the news, the army is intervening in this conflict on the Armenian side; on the other hand, army barracks and arms depots are being attacked in Azerbaijan.

[Mutalibov] That is true. This nation, which has been waiting for years for someone to help it put things in order, is being forced to use such means. Similar cases of arms theft occurred in Armenia three years ago, at a time when the force was set up that is now fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh. Meanwhile, we trusted the center, the president, Moscow, and the constitution. We wasted our time. We now see that we are practically facing a regular army. Therefore, the instinct to survive prevails in Azerbaijan. People are afraid of attacks and, therefore, they do not ask the president's permission for similar actions. I do not believe in surprise attacks to obtain arms. For example, our parliament decided on setting up a national army. We turned to Commander in Chief Shaposhnikov to provide arms for our national guard of 10,000 to 15,000 troops, a force that would take over the task of border defense. If a decision had been made on this, there would be no such surprise attacks for arms today.

[Pogar] Yeltsin's and Nazarbayev's attempts to mediate have failed. New mediators have emerged: The CSCE committee and Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati. Proposals also have been made to include the United Nations in a solution. What role could the neutral sides play in finding a solution?

[Mutalibov] I think that the international organizations have the task of preparing objective evaluations on conflicts. However, they have devised some sort of plot against Azerbaijan. The mass media is reporting one-sidedly. Therefore, we need the strength of an objective press here, rather than UN troops.

[Pogar] Do you feel any foreign intervention in this conflict?

[Mutalibov] Of course, a third, a fourth, and even a tenth hand is stirring up issues. Nothing happens accidentally here. We could have come to an agreement with the Armenians long ago if a third power had not told them to revolt because they would be defended. The Nagorno-Karabakh model was not only devised for Azerbaijan. Things are developing according to the same plan in Georgia, Moldova, and Russia.

[Pogar] Who is behind all this?

[Mutalibov] Those who saw that the Soviet Union was disintegrating and believed that something had to be done to avoid this.

NAR Leader Dismissed for Violating Laws

NC2702144792 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 2000 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] AZERINFORM has received a telegram from Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] Supreme Assembly, in which he cited the NAR Supreme Assembly decision on Prime Minister Bidzhan Farzaliyev. The telegram said:

The NAR Supreme Assembly has noted that during his term of office as prime minister, Farzaliyev did not keep the work of the Council of Ministers in line with contemporary requirements and allowed significant and serious shortcomings to creep into his activities.

The NAR Council of Ministers and its Presidium were not called to meet, nearly all the problems were arbitrarily solved by individual inquiry, the principles of collective work were grossly violated, and, consequently, many decisions and instructions were adopted which harmed the NAR economy.

There were no concrete views and measures to remove the economic crisis which has continued for years and the main economic issues were not improved. Backwardness prevailed and Farzaliyev's arbitrary initiatives grossly violated state discipline and laws.

As noted in the NAR Supreme Assembly's 13 January 1992 decision, Farzaliyev, without seeking Supreme Assembly approval, crossed into the Islamic Republic of Iran in an official vehicle on 11 December 1991 en route to Baku. He returned to Nakhichevan through Iran 20 days later on 3 January 1992. Farzaliyev failed to explain his absence from NAR to the Supreme Assembly. He also failed to fulfill a NAR Supreme Assembly Presidium decision of 31 January 1992.

Considering this and other situations, the Assembly has decided to approve Presidium decisions on Farzaliyev's [word indistinct] and to dismiss Prime Minister Farzaliyev for grossly violating state discipline and laws, misusing his authority, and allowing serious and significant shortcomings to creep into his work.

Georgia

Republic 'Plunged Into Pitch Darkness' 4 Mar

PM0503194792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Besik Urigashvili report]

[Text] Tbilisi—At approximately 2000 on 4 March, as the result of an accident in one of the units of Tbilisi State Regional Electric Power Station, there was a sharp drop in voltage throughout the Georgian power system, which reached a critical point. The main control desk was disconnected and the whole republic was plunged into pitch darkness.

There were enough problems even without this accident, incidentally. The Tbilisi subway has been out of operation for several days now. Transport has been paralyzed in Tbilisi and throughout the republic.

Difficulties with food are being superimposed on the difficulties in power generation. Stocks of many foodstuffs are running out. The population's social discontent is ripening. The new government is being accused of all conceivable and inconceivable sins.

Meanwhile the authorities are trying to find a way out of the dead-end situation that has come about. In this they are counting both on their own efforts and on outside assistance. Gavriil Popov, mayor of Moscow, and Yuriy Luzhkov, vice mayor of the Russian capital, paid a visit to Tbilisi 4 March. They brought to Georgia 112 tonnes of sugar as humanitarian aid. [passage omitted].

Fuel Depletion Caused Outage

OW0503170292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1358 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On the night March 4, the whole of Georgia remained without electric energy.

Chief of the Georgian Power-Engineering Department's distribution service Enver Chichua told IF [INTERFAX] that the emergency switch-off of the energy system was caused by a sharp fall in the network's voltage which, in its turn, had been caused by the stoppage of the Tbilisi electric power-plant which had run out of black oil. (The Tbilisi power-plant accounts for 70 per cent of the electric energy generated in the republic).

At the moment, Georgia is receiving electric energy from the Krasnodar territory and Azerbaijan, said Enver Chichua.

Shevardnadze Return 7 Mar 'Confirmed'

LD0503180292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Report by IPRINDA correspondent Zurab Dvali in Georgia]

[Text] The Democratic Union of Georgia adopted an appeal to the republican Military Council, Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua, and all political parties and public organizations in Georgia on 4 March. It says that the very grave political, economic, and social situation which has arisen of late requires the carrying out of urgent measures. Measures should be taken not only on the part of the Military Council and the provisional government, but also on the part of all political and public organizations.

Under these conditions, the Democratic Union of Georgia sees a way out in setting up a civil salvation committee as a provisional supreme organ of government. This committee will ensure parliamentary elections and the preparation of democratic structures. The Democratic Union of Georgia feels that Eduard Shevardnadze should also be invited to join the civil salvation committee. The former USSR foreign minister, having completed a U.S. tour and having met with a number of prominent U.S. businessmen who expressed the wish to give assistance to Georgia, has undoubtedly added more points to his rating, which political observers feel is steadily on the increase. The question of Eduard Shevardnadze's return has been virtually decided: Almost all leaders of political parties and members of the provisional government have spoken of the need for him to come and participate in the republic's political life.

IPRINDA today contacted Teymuraz Stepanov, his assistant, who confirmed reports that Eduard Shevardnadze intends to return to Georgia on 7 March.

Aims of Return Outlined

LD0603113192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1024 GMT 6 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili: "Before Eduard Shevardnadze's Trip to Georgia—Announcemnt"]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Mar (TASS)—Establishing direct contacts with the new Georgian leadership and the leaders of the main political organizations in the republic and creating the necessary conditions for Georgia to receive urgent economic and financial assistance—this is the main aim of Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Tbilisi, which begins tomorrow. Apart from that, according to

certain data, the leader of the foreign policy association will be studying the possibility of his return to the political arena in Georgia.

The visit by the foreign affairs minister of the former USSR is his first visit to the homeland since the non-communist leadership, whose leader, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, immediately began a campaign against Eduard Shevardnadze, came into power in Georgia. The forthcoming meetings in Tbilisi will show whether he has succeeded in turning the minds of a significant part of the population against his opponent.

To Form 'Rebirth of Georgia' Body

LD0403174792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1455 GMT 4 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 4 Mar (TASS)—Eduard Shevardnadze, president of the Foreign Policy Association and USSR minister of foreign affairs in the recent past, will come to Tbilisi at the end of this week to set up the "Rebirth of Georgia" public foundation, Tengiz Sigua, the head of the provisional government of this republic in the Transcaucasus, reported at a news conference today. He denied rumors about Shevardnadze's appointment to any leading post in the government, but he granted the possiblity that he might participate in the forthcoming elections as the honorary chairman of the republic's Democratic Party.

Helicopter Regiment Ordered To Leave by 1 Jun

LD0603072392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] On 3 March the command of a helicopter unit deployed in Tskhinvali, the capital of South Ossetia, received instructions from the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs on the withdrawal of the helicopter regiment and redeployment of internal troops from the republican territory by 1 June 1992.

Royal Heir Criticizes Party Leaders' Visit

AU0403153792 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 29 Feb 92 p 2

[Open letter to the Georgian people written by Giorgi Bagrationi, heir to the Georgian royal throne, 25 February in Marbella, Spain: "Long Live Free Georgia!"]

[Text]

Only the Whole Nation Has the Moral Right To Express its Wish Through a Referendum on Whether the Monarchy Should Be Restored in Georgia, Although it Will Only be a Parliament That Has Been Formed as a Result of Fresh Elections That Will Have the Legal Right To Hold Such a Referendum [excerpt from a message to the Georgian nation written on 15 February by Mariam Bagrationi, Giorgi's sister]

Recently, a message to the Georgian nation from Kalbatoni [Georgian polite form of address] Mariam Bagrationi and an open letter to the Georgian people from His Royal Highness Giorgi, head of the royal house, arrived from Spain addressed to Tengiz Sigua, acting prime minister of the Republic of Georgia.

The editorial office was able to publish the first of these in its edition of 22 February. Today, we are publishing His Royal Highness Giorgi's open letter (translated from Spanish) to the Georgian people.

Dear Georgians!

As the head of the Bagrationi royal family, in spite of my enormous admiration for the people of Georgia and great respect for its political circles, I have never stated my political position regarding the changes that have taken place in Georgia, although I have been following the events that have taken shape in my beloved homeland with great attention and concern.

Unfortunately, Batonebi Temur Zhorzholiani [head of the Georgian Monarchist (Conservative) Party] and Giorgi Chanturia [head of the National Democratic Party] recently delivered undesirable speeches. Their journey to Spain was preceded and accompanied by their insulting statements toward me and my family that were published in the world's press in which they were falsely claiming to represent all of Georgia's political forces, the provisional government, and the whole of Georgia and to be fulfilling "a mission of God." The actions of these two persons are the fruit of their premeditated insulting plan, whose aim was to destroy the unity of the Bagrationi family and to personally insult me, as a result of which they have greatly compromised our family name, the institution of the monarchy in general, and the seriousness and prestige of Georgian politicians before the eyes of the whole world.

We have to view the actions of these persons as evil slander, because they have been unable to influence a single member of the royal family to implement their own party designs, whose sole aim was victory in the elections.

Batonebi Zhorzholiani and Chanturia are motivated solely by personal interests, are ignoring the welfare of the nation, are shaming the country's political forces and, what is even worse and unacceptable, are scorning the flag that represents our holy motherland and for which many Georgians have shed their blood.

My family was, is, and always will be ready to loyally serve Georgia's national interests and its people, but we

will never allow ourselves to be used by those groups that are deliberately attacking and opposing the will of the majority of the nation.

If, at some time, the Georgian nation decides to restore a parliamentary monarchy, the future monarch, who will be the king of each Georgian and all Georgia, should use every means to protect democracy and human rights and should ensure the country's social and political stability.

Let us exclaim with one voice with full feeling and great love and hope: Long live free Georgia!

Let us beseech the lord that, in the near future, with our united efforts, justice will win for the sake of the historically long suffering, worthy nation.

[Signed] Giorgi

His Royal Highness Giorgi Bagrationi

[Issued] Marbella, 25 February 1992.

Military Commander Views Role in Conflict

OW0603131692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1128 GMT 6 Mar 92

[Interview with Lieutenant General Sufiyan Beppayev, commander of the Transcaucasian military district, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Nation and Society" feature—transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Corr.: What can you say about relations between the current Georgian leaders and the command of the Transcaucasian military district?

Sufiyan Beppayev: Since the first day when the provisional government came to power, relations between the authorities and the Transcaucasian military district assumed civilized forms. The Georgian defense ministry issued a statement to guarantee security to the soldiers and their families living on military bases. They are now protected by the national guards. The statement is in marked contrast with the situation of the enlisted personnel and commissioned officers during Zviad Gamsakhurdia's rule. We have hard evidence that the former republican leaders provoked tensions between the soldiers and the local population. Servicemen were attacked on a daily basis, and not only in order to capture weapons. There were cases of soldiers and officers beaten up on Tbilisi streets in acts of unprovoked aggression.

Corr.: Ts it possible today that the troops express displeasure or fail to obey orders?

S.B.: Our district spans the territory off three republics-Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The position of the military is different from republic to republic, so the question defies a simple answer.

Corr.: What can you say about Gamsakhurdia's statement that he was ousted with support from the troops of the Transcaucasian military district?

S.B.: If we had supported Gamsakhurdia, fighting would have lasted in Tbilisi for two or three hours, not more. I can add that both parties asked us for support, but the military was strictly neutral and stayed away from the fightng which, we believe, is their purely domestic matter.

Corr.: The head of the Georgian government made a statement that "in case of aggression from the outside the republican armed forces will coordinate efforts with the troops of the Transcaucasian military district." Your comments?

S.B.: The district command will in this case will do its stuff, meaning that it will protect Georgia's borders. This is our responsibility, and the military and the government see eye to eye on this.

Corr.: President Yeltsin said lately that the Soviet Army troops in the ex-Soviet republics are placed under Russian authority. What is your opinion of this?

S.B.: To date, the Transcaucasian military district has not received nay instructions, and we continue to believe that we are under direct authority of CIS commander-in-chief Marshal Shaposhnikov.

Corr.: What can you say about the living standards of the troops?

S.B.: They are anything but good, and going worse with each passing day. For example, servicemen have not drawn pay for months. I am sure nevertheless that our commissioned officers will not undertake extreme forms of protest. The military has already been serving in the district for several years, the conditions have been extraordinary, and the troop morale is very high. The troops are aware of the mission to stabilize the situation in Transcaucasia. But patience can run out in the long last. Hopefully, politicians will ultimately take heed of the very low living standards among the military.

Corr.: What can you tell about the situation in South Ossetia?

S.B.: Ossetia insists certain preconditions should be met before it starts talking with Georgia's provisional government, including the use of the name South Ossetia, not Shidokartli or Samachablo, and de-blocking the conflict region.

Estonia

Citizenship Law Will 'Escalate' Crisis

PM0503162592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Leonid Levitskiy: "Estonia Split Into 'Citizens' and 'Foreigners'"]

[Text] Tallinn—About 950,000 Estonians and no less than 600,000 foreigners have been living in Estonia since 26 February. The split has been implemented on the basis of a new legal act, the resolution on introducing the law "On Citizenship," which has been adopted by parliament.

Under the standing orders, such an extremely important document which in many ways determines the future of the republic and the hundreds of thousands of people who live in it, should have collected a simple majority of votes. The resolution was supported by 52 deputies, the minimum necessary to ratify it. Nearly all Russian-speaking deputies opposed it or abstained.

"To a certain extent we have won a small victory," Parliamentary Deputy Speaker Viktor Andreyev says. "The time frame for naturalization, the shortest time within which one can obtain citizenship, has been reduced from three years to one year and one month."

Parliament has recorded and reflected the state of Estonian society. The first point of the adopted resolution makes provision to bring into force the law "On Citizenship" as it existed 16 June 1940—the day the Red Army arrived in the republics. At that time this law was one of the most democratic in Europe. If left unchanged, it would be too mild and favorable to people arriving in Estonia in future. Every one of these people will be able to apply for citizen status after only two years. And one year after submitting their application they will be examined on their knowledge of the republic's language, history, and culture.

The law takes a tough line on people who have been living in Estonia and working for the good of the country for many years. They must now go through a two-year qualification period all over again followed by a year's probation, and then must sit examinations. Admittedly, this period will be reckoned from 30 March 1990—the day parliament declared a transition period and the real restoration of independence.

Only persons performing special services for the state are exempt from the year's probationary period.

One year in a man's life is not a long time. But this year is a decisive one for the life of the republic. A referendum on the Constitution will be held in the coming months. Elections to the State Assembly will follow. Virtually the entire Russian-speaking population will take no part in these, the overwhelming majority of them at any rate. Therefore they will not even be represented in parliament. A list of positions that cannot be held by noncitizens will soon be published.

Many economic and social problems have still not been resolved. Privatization is looming, as is the reorganization of higher and secondary schools. And there is a natural concern: Won't the total state pie just be sliced up among citizens? Appeals by politicians not to confuse civil rights with human rights do not reassure people. They are too closely bound up with each other. The law on land that has been adopted already states this bluntly: Only citizens may acquire land. And the concept of "Estonian citizen" has been introduced into a number of other laws. Who will protect the noncitizen? Their own opportunities are extremely limited: They are not entitled to form political organizations.

Actually depriving 600,000 people of citizenship will undoubtedly escalate the crisis in which Estonia finds itself.

'Draconian' Law Encroaches Minorities

LD0503230492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Text] Estonia's Russian Democratic Movement has circulated a statement in connection with the coming into force of the law "On Citizenship". This statement stresses that the new law encroaches on the rights of national minorities in Estonia and may lead to a destabilization of the sociopolitical situation. Here is a commentary by Andrey Krasnov:

[Krasnov] Please, go away! That, if you like, is how the main idea of the present law on citizenship of the Estonian Republic could be defined. In fact, Tallinn is showing the door to anyone who cannot boast Estonian blood three generations back. According to today's rules, Estonian citizenship has been granted, apart from ethnic Estonians, to all inhabitants who lived in this territory before 1940. For the remaining former citizens of the USSR who want to be Estonian subjects, the authorities have set a two-year naturalization period and a year for the examination of their application. During this period candidates must prepare for passing an Estonian language examination and display their loyalty to the republican authorities. Moreover, purely in the spirit of the Pioneers, all of Estonia's new citizens are obliged to take an oath of allegiance which runs as follows:

Applying for Estonian citizenship, I swear allegiance to the Estonian Republic and its constitutional state system.

However, by no means everyone can apply. The present law immediately deprives of citizenship: CIS servicemen, former KGB staffers, recidivists, and people without a permanent legal income.

Even purely from the outside the Estonian law on citizenship is draconian. All people who have settled in the republic in the period of Soviet rule in fact find themselves outside it. The notorious principle: I am

hungry so you are to blame, is operating here and in Estonia they clearly have no intention of sorting out who is right and who is to blame. In practice this means that approximately 40 percent of Estonia's inhabitants have today been ranked as foreigners or stateless persons. They do not have the right to elect and to be elected to the organs of government, to set up political parties, to possess land or even to fly on Estonian planes with a discount.

The present law virtually openly discriminates against the Russian-speaking population and is clearly aimed at throwing non-Estonians out of the republic. But Tallinn may be in for a small surprise. The point is that in the northeast of Estonia where 95 percent of Russians live, they will hardly resign themselves to the policy of the present Estonian leaders. Already now in this region they are ready to hold a referendum on joining Russia. In this way very soon Tallinn may receive its own version of Pridnestrovye with all consequences which follow from it.

Democracy is not only for Estonians. When nationalism takes the upper hand, confrontation almost always becomes inevitable.

Latvia

Army Officers Demand Housing After Withdrawal

LD0603103192 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 2030 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Text] The officers of the Army of Russia demand the creation of preconditions for the Army's withdrawal. At a meeting of their organization the officers of the Army of Russia stationed in the Baltics have demanded the necessary preconditions at those places to which the troops would be withdrawn. Solidarity was expressed at the meeting with those collectives of officers who have refused to obey the command on the withdrawal from the Baltics if normal living conditions are not provided. Such decisions have already been adopted at several units in Lithuania and Estonia. The soldiers also warn that insults to their honor and respect, and also disregard of Russian state interests is occurring in the Baltic states. Various incidents were provoking the Army to responsive action, during which force might be used, and this would cause unforeseen consequences.

Melnichuk, deputy commander of the Northwest Group of Forces, has said in turn that everything is being done so that there will not be instances of Army insubordination

According to calculations by representatives of the Army, it is necessary to build approximately 40,000 apartments in Russia for the officers to be withdrawn from the Baltics.

Popular Front Protests Withdrawal Communique

OW0503191392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1819 GMT 5 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The board of the Latvian People's Front (LPF) issued a statement in connection with a Latvian-Russian communique signed on March 1 which calls for a withdrawal of the former Soviet troops from Latvia. The communique says that recognizing occupation troops as armed forces of a foreign state is inadmissible. The LPF also disagreed with Russia which insists that Latvia may only count on those buildings and facilities vacated during the troop pullout that had belonged to the republic until 190. [number as received]

According to the LPF board, the manner and the timetable of the troop withdrawal may not be determined by national security interests of Russia. In addition, the statement says, Russia must fully finance the repatriation of servicemen and their families as well as the setting up of an adequate safety net.

Newsprint Available; Milk Supply Threatened

PM0603091992 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Mar 92 p 3

[Report by Colonel M. Ziyeminsh under the "Direct Line" rubric: "After the 'Week Without the Press,' a 'Week Without Milk'"]

[Text] Riga, 3 Mar—The "Week without the Press" in Latvia, when none of the 799 publications registered with the Ministry of Justice appeared, has had positive results. The production of the newsprint that the republic's press needs so badly has begun at the Slokas pulp and paper factory. On 2 March the House of the Press received the first consignment of 25 tonnes of paper of which the annual supply will be around 7,000 tonnes. The paper crisis and the crisis of the press have been resolved, it may be said.

But then the other day it came to light that a new republic-wide action is being prepared—a "Week Without Milk." It is being organized by the Latvian union of agricultural workers headed by former Prime Minister V. Bresis. The aim of the action, according to its organizers, is to "teach the present government a lesson."

The fact is that a large quantity of output has built up at the depots of the Valmiera Dairy, which serves all the rayons of Latvia's Vidzeme zone as well as part of Riga. This output includes butter worth 31 million rubles [R], cheese worth R8 million, and ice cream worth R2 million. There are no customers for these goods because of the high prices. But for the price to be more or less reasonable, the dairy has to buy milk at no more than R7 instead of the R15 a kg set by the government. The reduction of purchase prices is the main condition of the

"milk strike" planned to begin 5 March unless the Cabinet of Ministers accepts the farm workers' terms.

Lithuania

Briefing Held on USSR Troops, Belarus Claims

LD0103031892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Interview with Audrius Azubalis, press attache of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, with unidentified studio correspondent on 25 February—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] One of the most urgent problems continuing to agitate Lithuanian society is the withdrawal of the former USSR troops from its territory. This was mentioned today at a briefing conducted by the press attache of the Lithuanian Supreme Council, Audrius Azubalis. What is new today?

[Azubalis] There is nothing comforting. First, the military has created such a propaganda hue and cry that, allegedly, they were withdrawing a small detachment of troops of anti-aircraft defense. Later we heard only from the Baltic News Service, but not from the military, that it, allegedly, had decided not to withdraw for the time being and only to redeploy this small group of anti-aircraft defense nearer to Vilnius. And if they start withdrawing, then only, maybe, at the beginning of March. Thus, there is every indication that the Russian side is so far not implementing our latest agreement concluded at the last meeting of the state delegations of Russia and Lithuania in Vilnius.

[Correspondent] Does the Lithuanian side have more precise information?

[Azubalis] Today, Minister of National Defense Butkevicius is meeting the military and, probably, something will be elucidated. But I wish to stress once again that we do not see any important steps by the troops of the former Soviet Union on their withdrawal.

[Correspondent] Could you tell something about the border service and what is the news from Klaipeda?

[Azubalis] Audrius Butkevicius, minister of national defense, reported today that our border services had already taken over the international ferry Mukran, and they had been receiving the coming vessels. Former Soviet border guards are not interfering, but, in spite of this, they still occupy the control building of the post in Klaipeda and do not intend to leave. It is true, our border guards are there, too. They are not leaving either, together with the head of the border service, Mr. Stancikas, who, according to our information, announced a hunger strike. I think that all this will be solved in the nearest future. Thus, there are no important misunderstandings with the border guards. It is most important to us that the Russian side begins to implement the agreement concluded by the delegations headed by Mr. Shakhray and Mr. Stankevicius.

[Correspondent] People who listened yesterday to a report by REUTER have many questions. Could you comment on it and describe the content of this as many people did not hear it?

[Azubalis] Yesterday REUTER reported that, in the alleged statements by Belarus Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko, there was a statement that Belarus had every ground to lay claim to the territory of southeastern Lithuania and even to the territory of Vilnius, that, allegedly, the Lithuanians there were in a minority and that these lands were Belarussian.

I mention this in very general terms. I am not quoting. But the sense is as follows: Of course, we cannot make any assessment so far because this was a report by only one information source. I think that our Foreign Ministry will contact its Belarussian colleagues and will establish whether such a statement really did take place at a meeting of Petr Kravchenko with a European Community delegation.

I would like only to recall a declaration signed on 24 October 1991 by Vytautas Landsbergis and Stanislav Shushkevich on goodneighborly principles and goodneighborliness between Belarus and Lithuania. The first article in this declaration states that both sides develop their relations on the basis of respect of each other's sovereignty, and the second article in this declaration says that both sides build these relations on noninterference and respect for the territorial integrity of each country.

Thus, there is this declaration, and we are building and will build our relations on its basis and on the basis of the international documents of the Helsinki process.

[Correspondent] One should note here that this is only one information source which published such information.

[Azubalis] Yes, this source was quoted last night by Free Europe and other West European broadcasting stations. Thus, this is not such innocent information. If this true and such statements have been made, they can be only described as provocative, both in spirit and in content, reminding us of the provocative demands of the old communist nomenklatura, I have Gorbachev's times in mind, when in 1989-1990 similar threats were made to Lithuania—you wish to leave, do so, but you will lose southeastern Lithuania and your coast.

[Correspondent] We have been informed by competent sources that representatives of the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs today had a telephone conversation with Belarus Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko, in order to establish if the REUTER report was true. Petr Kravchenko stated that there has been a meeting with representatives of the European Community, but the head of the Belarussian Foreign Ministry used only general phrases as regards Lithuania. At present, these facts are being elaborated at the Lithuanian Foreign

Ministry and a corresponding statement is to be made. All the same, we are not dotting our "i" 's.

Military Base Not Handed Over to Lithuania

LD0603063392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1500 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Today 103 officers and soldiers left, but at least 35,000 former Soviet and now Russian soldiers are still in Lithuania. [passage omitted]

Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, commader of the Northwestern Army Group, met with Minister of National Defense Audrius Butkevicius. [passage omitted]

Minister Butkevicius told a BALTIC NEWS SERVICE correspondent that his talk with Gen. Valeriy Mironov concerned mostly the handing over to Lithuania of the Mickunai military base. So far the territory of this military townlet is guarded by soldiers. According to our minister, after some misunderstandings, especially on property matters, the act of handing over the military base was not signed. Therefore, Lithuania does not regard the withdrawal of the army from the territory of Lithuania to have started, said Audrius Butkevicius.

'Negligence' Cited in Border Guards Duties

LD0503001492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2230 GMT 4 Mar 92

[Text] Former Soviet border guards, (who are watching) the Lithuanian-Polish border line, report that yesterday late evening the signal-sensing was cut off near the town of Kalvarija.

According to the footprints, two persons crossed the borderline and entered illegally into the territory of Lithuania. The border violators have not yet been detained.

The Lithuanian Defense Ministry described this incident as yet another instance of proof that the former Soviet border guards are negligent in performing their duties since they do not know what state they are subordinated to and whose interests they stand for. Lithuanian officials have warned that if the present situation on the borderline does not improve, the results might be disastrous. The Lithuanian Defense Ministry is ready to take over the Lithuanian-Polish border guarding function at any time.

Landsbergis Notes Importance of Japan Visit

LD0503215292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 3 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis and his wife departed Vilnius today via Frankfurt-am-Main, enroute to Tokyo. International Economic Affairs Minister Vytenis Alesaitis accompanied them. [passage omitted]

Prior to his departure, Vytautas Landsbergis told journalists that this visit has great political and economic significance. We are very pleased with the attention accorded to Lithuania by the emperor of Japan. In our conversations with the prime minister and with diplomats, I will endeavor to emphasize that Japan's interest is especially urgent for us. It is understandable that I will also try to activate attention through business people.

The sponsors of the Ciurlionis art exhibit are planning a big reception on the eve of the opening to which they have invited many eminent Japanese artists, cultural figures, and diplomats. Vytautas Landsbergis noted that he hopes to discuss and initiate cultural cooperation ties between Japan and Lithuania.

Budget Adopted Following Deficit Reduction

LD2902203092 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 27 Feb 92

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Supreme Council deputies decided not to finance political parties from the budget. Originally 6.7 million rubles were allocated for this purpose. [passage omitted] After the adoption of amendments it was still a deficit budget, therefore it was decided to look for additional reserves. They emerged after Elvyra Kuneviciene, the minister of finance; Antanavicius, the chairman of the commission of economy of the Supreme Council; and Audrius Rudys, the chairman of the budget commission of the Supreme Council, decided to reduce allocations to the increase of the state reserves by 450 million rubles and also to allocate 50 million rubles to cover interest from supplement of the state credit reserves. As a result, the budget deficit has steeply declined and amounts to 1.3 billion rubles.

Such a deficit, according to Deputy Rudys, is no longer dangerous. It still is permissible.

Ninety deputies voted for the draft budget, two voted against, and five abstained.

Unemployment Could Reach 618,000 Within Year

PM0403152992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 92 First Edition p 7

[Report by Jurgis Tubinis under the "Unemployment" rubric: "On Involuntary 'Vacation'"]

[Text] Vilnius—The summary of results on Lithuania's employment exchange are sad—it is assumed that there will be 618,000 unemployed by the end of the year.

This is a colossal figure for tiny Lithuania: Job losses threaten one able-bodied inhabitant in every three. True, there is also a real reserve. In February there were approximately four job vacancies for every unemployed person. But not, of course, in their own specialized field.

There can only be an improvement in the situation if the economic reform proceeds propitiously. However, the

present trend is as follows: A shortage of raw materials has brought the "Lietkabelis" Plant in Panevezys to a halt, more than one-half of the collective has not been working at the "Vingis" Association in Vilnius, several hundred people have been "on vacation" at the electric measuring equipment plant, and "Ekranas" in Panevezys, famous for its picture tubes, intends to dismiss 2,000 people.